

NORTHWEST FOUNDATION

Neighbors question new Center's plans

By Lisa Houtchens, Lindsay Jacobs
Chief Reporter, University News Editor

(This is the second in a two-part series on the new Northwest Alumni Center.)

A Maryville neighborhood seeks answers to questions about the proposed new Alumni Center to be built at College and North Munn avenues.

Diane Brown lives at 725 W. Third St., and has resided there for past nine years. She has since then fell in love with her home.

But now Brown is afraid the neighborhood she lives in will lose its integrity. Last fall, she learned a little about the proposed Alumni Center from another community member asking her about her feelings toward it.

At the end of January, she received a letter from the city informing her of a zoning hearing, because there was interest in using property the property for

office space.

She never dreamed there would be a project of this sort in the area.

"This is zoned residential, I had no reason to believe that it would be anything but a well established, quiet neighborhood that just happened to be close to the University," Brown said.

She was worried when she found out she would share the block with an "almost commercial" building.

There was quite a bit of thought that went in to the proposed location, Advancement Vice President Orrie Covert said.

A committee of seven from the Alumni Association Board, the Foundation Board and University staff were in charge of identifying and evaluating different locations where the center could be built, Covert said. The group looked at five to seven sites. At an October 2007 meeting, the group made a recommendation to the board. At the meeting the positives and negatives of all the sites were discussed,

Covert said.

"The conclusion was, there's not a perfect site for this facility. There are pros and cons with all the different sites," Covert said. "At the end of the day, after you weigh out the pros and cons, the committee felt that College and Munn was the best site."

Roger Bundridge and his family have lived at 611 W. Third for seven years.

"When we all moved to this neighborhood, we moved to a ... commercial area," Bundridge said.

Several neighbors said they aren't getting straight answers about the project.

Recently, the neighborhood approached the Foundation with a list of concerns regarding keeping the long-term integrity of the neighborhood.

"They really weren't able to provide us with any assurances," Brown said. "At this point they were not even able to show us a plan."

Without seeing exact plans for the proposed Alumni Center neighbors see it hard to support it, Bundridge said. Brown has received most of her information from articles in newspapers, she said.

"It's hard for anybody to say 'Oh, OK, we are OK with it,' because we don't know what it's going to entail," Bundridge said.

Since it is so early in the planning for the facility it is hard for officials to answer citizens' questions, Alumni Relations Director Steve Sutton said.

"Some of the questions you know that they want answers to ... we're at the point right now where we really can't answer some of those questions," Sutton said.

The Foundation will comply to all city regulations through the building process, Sutton said.

Terry Ewing lives at 325 N. Dunn, one

See CENTER on A8

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

REAL ESTATE RELIEF



Going against the slumping housing-market trend, Maryville's housing market seems to be staying healthy. Realtor Brian Twaddle explained the growing success of Kawasaki and Eveready in Maryville helps create the need for additional moderately-priced housing in the area.

Maryville housing market avoids national downturn

By Sean Comer
Senior Reporter

Lunging for the housing market's "panic" button might be premature.

American and international media started speculating months ago that homebuyers and sellers faced a souring market forecast of elevated home prices and increasing mortgage foreclosures.

Those close to Maryville's housing market sing a different song. Maryville's market seems healthy and perhaps even insulated from reported woes plaguing other markets, Nodaway Valley Bank loan officer Brian Schieber and realtor Bryan Twaddle said.

East and West Coast markets would face the worst woes. However, Twaddle spoke with friends in California in recent weeks who said the situation there appears to be improving, Schieber said.

"I've got two contracts with people offering \$20,000 less than what they're

asking for, thinking they're going to steal something," Twaddle said. "When you've got a university on, people have blinders on to a lot of the stupid stuff that goes on in the national news."

"I know there's areas that's not good, but it's not terrible, either."

Maryville's strongest employers' success — including Eveready and Kawasaki — could even create a need for additional housing in the \$90,000 price range, Twaddle said.

Schieber explained as best he could the origins of what the media dubs a sub-prime mortgage "crisis." Many buyers banked on 100-percent (or more) loans that could be paid off with their homes' rising values. At the time, inflated values in certain areas and perhaps lax background checks added fuel to the fire, Schieber said.

Many of those buyers ended up buying pricier homes at low, introductory

See ESTATE on A8

"There's a right loan for everybody,"

Brian Schieber

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Several fees may change if approved

By Lisa Houtchens
Chief Reporter

2008-'09 fees

Next fall the fees Northwest students pay could move from a flat rate to per credit hour, if approved by the Northwest Board of Regents.

Fee changes will go before the board on Friday, May 2. They include increases to the of classroom renovation, activity, wellness/health, technology and textbook fees.

Spreading fees out by credit hour instead of the flat fee makes keeps the cost lower for the students, Student Affairs Vice President Jackie Elliott said.

"Restructuring it (fees) helps maintain the costs for students," Elliott said. "To ... equal out what students have to pay."

The classroom renovation increase would be used for the renovation to the Valk Agricultural Building to provide additional classroom space for the History, Humanities, Philosophy and Political Science Department. This fee would also cover the studio theater next to the Performing Arts Center, Finance and Support Services Vice President Ray Courter said.

The classroom renovation fee would increase from \$3 to \$5.50 per credit hour.

The wellness fee, formerly known as the health fee, would be used to provide more counselors for students. The combined fee would support and improve all outreach events on campus, counseling and peer education for the students, said Beau Dooley, wellness director

See FEE on A8

CELEBRATORY SEND-OFF



photos by jared clark | chief photographer

FLAGS IN HAND, children from St. Francis Preschool and Child Care watch as a parade of Maryville troops bound for Kosovo pass by April 11 on South Main.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Financial aid policy will change in fall

Micheal Clements, Brian Johnson
Chief Reporter, Entertainment Reporter

Students returning for the fall trimester will notice changes taking place in financial aid.

Refund checks won't be available until Sept. 1, after the free drop period and past due accounts over \$200 cannot be paid with new aid.

Changing the date for receiving refund checks from the first day of classes should supplement the federal law changing the old policy on past due accounts, Northwest Bursar Terri Christensen said.

Prior to the federal law change, students could pay up to \$100 past due with current aid. Anything over \$100 required written permission from the students, unless the past due amount is over the amount refunded, she said.

Then the law changed, and now states students may use current federal aid to pay for anything past due on their accounts under \$200. However the law prohibits anything over that.

Northwest researched the policy of other schools in Missouri before deciding to push the date back for picking up refund checks, Christensen said.

"Seven out of the nine schools I heard back from wait until after the free drop period to do their refund," she said. "Students are still dropping and adding classes ... I think a lot of them don't realize by the time they pick up their refund checks they've added a bunch of charges."

Moving back the date will allow financial aid to

See AID on A8

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Rap artist to be featured at TUG event Friday

The group Talents Used for God will hold the second annual Gospel Outreach at 7 p.m., Friday, in the Station.
The free event will feature rap artist Laerae and other performances.

Planting event planned for Friday

The tree dedication ceremony and planting project is being rescheduled for 2 to 4 p.m., Friday, at the Memorial Bell Tower.

Horticulture club to hold open house next Saturday

The Northwest Horticulture Club will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 26, at the Northwest Horticulture Complex.
The open house will include a plant sale, greenhouse tours, classroom work examples, an activity for kids, a slideshow and refreshments.

Student wins award for Web site

Rebecca Sprague, an interactive digital media-new media major took first place for the best scholarly content for her Web site, The College Equestrian in the Central Plains Student Web Contest the Consortium for Computing Sciences in College held.
She presented her Web site on April 5. There were 10 finalists representing nine schools from Kansas, Iowa and Missouri.
Sprague's Web site can be accessed at Thecolleequestrian.com

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Packed ballroom debates issue of race in America

By Destinee Biesemeyer
Missourian Reporter

On April 14, the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom was full of students representing different heritages and races to discuss the issue of race in America.

The town hall meeting of Northwest students, began with the speech presidential nominee Barack Obama gave on March 18 regarding the element spectators have claimed Obama was avoiding most: race.

"He didn't want to be seen as the black candidate, similar with Romney having a Mormon background," Political Science Professor and discussion facilitator Richard Frucht said.

Obama recognized the racial stigma he experienced from family, friends and critics and expressed the "anger and humiliation" blacks and other Americans have felt throughout the nation's history of continued segregation and racism. Obama admitted this is an "issue we cannot afford to ignore."

After the selected part of the speech concluded, student panelists introduced themselves and explained why they thought race in America is an important issue worthy of discussion. One panelist, Jeff Kanger, expressed concern over the behavior of individuals.

"Look who you are sitting next to, who you eat dinner with or hang out with," Kanger said.

Lunch is a great time to experience something new, Frucht said. "You will always learn more with a lunch tray, because you get a new perspective when you sit down with someone who is different from you," Frucht said.

Other comments made by students in attendance reflected personal experiences, opinions and questions. "Racism is when on race has some disparity against another. I don't think

this is just a problem in America, but I have seen it most here," Nigerian sophomore Isoma Nwadozi said.

Even though racism is not as common in Nigeria, other forms of discrimination are, Nwadozi said.

"You have to understand that I wake up in the morning (in Nigeria) and see people with same skin pigment as me," Nwadozi said.

He listed political stances, place of birth, sexual orientation and poverty as contributors to what people fear and said that the poor continue to get poorer as the rich continue to get richer.

Another student, Selena Owens, talked about the impact discrimination has on her as she teaches her son to treat everyone equally.

"It's important to me because I realized how many people are prejudice just because their parents are without any personal experience and I don't want to pass that on to the next generation," Owens said.

In another viewpoint, senior John Sowards, who was impressed with the discussions, had another point of view.

"My idea was that everyone there was talking about being offended and I don't think you can legislate offensive ideas, Sowards said. Now it is all personal. There is no vision and no understanding of your government who is supposed to represent the people and, I don't know, maybe it does," Sowards said.

Sowards referenced to Martin Luther King, Marcus Garvey and Malcolm X as having "real, concrete rallying points."

A few of these concrete issues have been contributing the perpetuation of racism.

"There is an extremely unbalanced prison population, income disparities and graduation rates are low," Sowards said, comparing the ratio of whites and blacks in each



SOPHOMORE ISOMA NWADOZI from Nigeria brings up the movie 'Shrek' in his response during the political science discussion on race in America April 14 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

category. "These are real things you can address, things you could march for. Name three things you would be willing to get bit by a dog for or sprayed by a hose for," he said.

Sowards attributes racism to something learned from the world and people around us.

"We are a product of society and we should be talking about things we could be doing. I think people really don't think they are as shaped as they are," Sowards said.

Political Science Assistant Professor Dan Smith also agrees discrimination is a learned phenomenon. "Kids aren't racist when they are little, it is something that they learn," Smith said.

Smith went on to explain a scenario described by colleague Robert Dewhirst, called the "zero-sum game."

"This is when someone is resentful toward someone else for getting something, and the assumption that there is only one thing to be won," Smith said.

The "zero-sum game" creates the conflict of one group versus another and is often applied to situations dealing with the idea of reverse discrimination in affirmative action, which was also brought up in the discussion.

"I was stunned some of the reverse



A NORTHWEST STUDENT directs a question to the panel of students in regards to race at the political science discussion.

discrimination is ever thought of," Sowards said.

Reverse discrimination is when the majority, in this case white people, feel they are being hindered because of the color of their skin.

Organizers eventually had to end discussions to prevent the event from running too long.

"What was very telling is almost everybody stayed the whole time. They wanted to hear what their colleagues had to say. And after an hour and a half to say we only have time for one more comment, that was great," Frucht said.

Overall, Frucht, Smith and other facilitators were pleased with the outcome.

"Bigotry is tied to so many issues. I was really pleased at the frank comments, people were really talking about ideas and that is how knowledge grows. They might not agree, but they are in the same frame of mind," Frucht said. "It's important for my growth as a human being because the day we stop learning something new, there is no point in living."

CAMPUS

CAMPUS

NORTHWEST GRADUATE SCHOOL



GRADUATE OFFICE MANAGER Nina Nickerson shows Mike Rust, Rebecca Meyer and JJ Matousek the benefits of graduating with a master's degree during the reception for Graduate Education Week. This is the first time Northwest has celebrated Graduate Education Week.

UNIVERSITY PROFILE

Faculty member seeks variety

Coalter tries new hobbies instead of claiming just one

By Mary Elifrits, Sara Kendall
Missourian Reporters

With no specific hobbies, he loves to try new things. Marketing and management Associate Professor Terry Coalter strives to learn new things.

"I like to do anything I've never done before just once," Coalter said.

One activity Coalter favored was learning to fly airplanes. After he learned the ins and outs of flying an airplane, he moved on to something else new and exciting, he said.

Maybe this is why Coalter has many degrees in different fields and enjoys continuing to learn. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's in management, a law degree and a doctorate in Management.

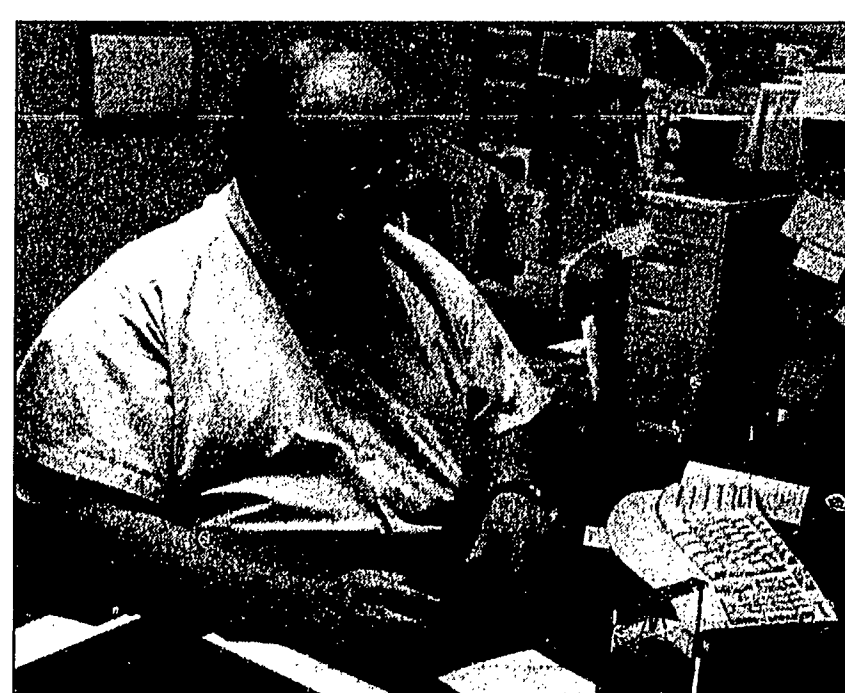
He also enjoys reading extensively and watching informational TV such as the History Channel, but especially likes the television show "Dirty Jobs," Coalter said.

Coalter has received many awards lately for his outstanding teaching ability.

On April 9, Coalter received a Missouri Higher Education Teacher of the Year award.

In addition, he has received the Southwest Academy of Management Outstanding Reviewer award of 2008 and the Dean's Faculty Award for outstanding teaching from Northwest in the Fall of 2007.

Before his teaching career began in 1994, Coalter practiced



WINNER OF THE Missouri Higher Education Teacher of the Year Award, Dr. Terry Coalter, takes time out of his day to talk about career.

law in Arkansas for five years. Then, Coalter taught at the University of Texas-Arlington and Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Fla.

Needing to relocate closer to family, Maryville was the perfect combination of geographic location and job opportunity, Coalter said. "I wanted a place that emphasized teaching as opposed to research," Coalter said.

Coalter is easy to work with and students say he is easy to learn from

and makes class fun. Ann Clark, marketing and management department secretary, said.

"It's not a bit surprising that he is receiving teaching awards," Clark said.

As far as teaching at Northwest goes, Coalter fits into the community setting well.

"I like the students, my colleagues and the administration is very supportive of teaching here," Coalter said.

"I like to do anything I've never done before just once."

Terry Coalter, marketing and management associate professor

CAMPUS COMPUTING

Portal to launch next month

By Shane Sherwood
Senior Reporter

After more than a year of delays, myNorthwest will launch.

MyNorthwest is a new portal, like My Yahoo, that will launch May 12 and helps users easily access their e-mail, bills and other CatPAWS tasks with one login.

Users also have the ability to create user groups and conduct other social networking and information-sharing activities, project manager Gijra Chavala said.

Designed and launched using SunGuard's Luminus Platform software, myNorthwest will function as an online resource for the entire University community. It is configured to provide users with message boards, online groups, chat rooms, photo albums, targeted messages and many other features, Chavala said.

MyNorthwest will be different for students, faculty and staff. Students will view different information than faculty or staff, Auxiliary Services Director Mark Hetzler said.

"It will be more dynamic than a Web site," Hetzler said. "It will be more than just information put out there like on a Web site."

The new portal will also have blocks of information that could include weather, organizational

updates such as minutes and programs, Bearcat sports updates and class assignments, Hetzler said.

"MyNorthwest will be student driven," Hetzler said. "The more students use it and give us feedback, the better it will be."

The idea of the portal is designed for the user. Users have complete control over it and can customize it as much as they want, Hetzler said.

Some information cannot be deleted from the users' myNorthwest page, but it will be changeable and time operational, Hetzler said.

One of the goals of myNorthwest is to replace most of CatPAWS, Hetzler said.

MyNorthwest won't replace the way class registration happens because registration with the portal could slow it down, and there would have to be extensive software updates. It could happen sometime, though, but not anytime soon.

The security features for myNorthwest will be the same that helps protect information through CatPAWS, Hetzler said.

Students will still log onto a secure network only they can access, Hetzler said.

Since myNorthwest will be new when it launches next month, it will still have some kinks that need to

Why use My Northwest?

- e-mail
- message boards
- chatrooms
- photo albums
- targeted messages
- online groups

be worked out.

"As myNorthwest rolls out, it is not going to be like a car that is all perfect and ready to drive," Hetzler said. "It is going to be like a new tool. We will figure out how we all utilize it. It won't be as flashy in the beginning."

MyNorthwest will also work to make e-mail an individualized communication again, Hetzler said.

"The portal will try to rid away all of the e-mails sent every day for activities going on around campus," Hetzler said. "It will make it easier to find out what is going on around campus than by reading all of the bulletin boards and the numerous e-mails sent out to everyone. It could also help boost attendance for some activities."

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Dance lessons scheduled for next Sunday on campus

A Step-Tastic Class will be held at 8 a.m., Sunday, April 27, in the Martindale Hall Dance Studio.

The workshop will provide new ideas, lessons on creating complex patterns and variations on popular moves.

For registration and fees contact 800-AEROBIC or visit Netafit.org. For more information, contact Robert Wassey at 562-1007.

Chiefs president Peterson to speak at commencement

The Kansas City Chiefs president, general manager and CEO Carl Peterson will speak at this year's spring commencement.

Commencement ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., May 3, in Bearcat Arena. Tickets are not required for admission. For more information, visit Nwmissouri.edu/seniorspot.

Surplus auction planned for May

Northwest Missouri State will hold a surplus property auction at 9 a.m., Tuesday, May 6, at the Materials Distribution Center.

Items up for auction can be inspected from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, May 5, at the Materials Distribution Center.

For more information, contact Angie Wolters at 562-1178 or visit Nwmissouri.edu/dept/purchasing.

ADVERTISEMENT

Student Health, Student Success

A message from the Northwest Wellness Center



By Jerry Wilmes, M.D., Medical Director/Director of Health Services
Emergency Coordinator

Many people still think of college health services as treating colds, sore throats, sexually transmitted infections and providing pregnancy prevention. While we do address those issues, they are only a small part of the spectrum of college health.

The face of college health has changed dramatically in the last 20 years and has become a specialty in itself. Students are coming to college with a greater level of stress than past generations, and more students enter college with complex pre-existing physical and mental health issues. We use continuing education, electronic media, professional organization resources, and benchmarking and networking with colleagues to provide the best possible evidence-based care for students. We also work actively to maintain a strong specialist referral network and communicate regularly with students' primary care providers to provide continuity of care while students are attending college. Medical and counseling center staff are also on call 24/7 to respond to emergencies that arise after hours.

We also play a central role in the public health of the campus. That includes prevention, screening and management of contagious infectious diseases, wellness promotion and providing input into emergency plan development.

Wellness is critical to student success. Our goal is to provide the resources and guidance, in as many settings and venues as possible, for each student to move towards optimal physical, mental and spiritual health.

This is a message from the Northwest Wellness Center.

For more information about this topic, or to learn about our services for students, please call ext. 1348.

We are the specialists in college health.

Career Services would like to recognize the following employers for their partnership and service in preparing Northwest students for their chosen careers.

Ag Processing, Inc.

Barkley

Blue Springs School District

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DST Systems, Inc.

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Sherwin Williams

South Harrison R-II

St. Gregory's School

State Street

Target

US Bank

VML

Wells Fargo Financial

Zona Rosa

We appreciate their participation in Spring Mock Interview Day and the Education Employer Panel.

Career Services
Bringing Talent & Opportunity Together
Administration Building #130
(660) 562-1250

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Northwest Missouri State University
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*Northwest Trumpet Ensemble
and University Chorale*
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Performing Arts Center
Admission is free!
Featuring the entire
Coronation Mass
by W.A. Mozart
NORTHWEST
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

The staff of Owens Library appreciates the dedication and loyalty of the Summer 2007 through Spring 2008 Library Aids, Proctors, Presidential Scholars, IDMs and Graduate Assistants.

LIBRARY AIDS: Jarin Adcock Ryan Bensman Nicholas Brown Sean Collins Cory Davis Paul Dille Brian Enslin Joni Fields Erin Fry Jordan Gooch Rodney Heller Adam Howard Daniel Jones Angie Klocke Allen Long Benjamin Mendenhall Melinda Morrow Jedidiah Riley Catrina Robertson Sarah Rowan Michael Schuckman Laura Scruggs Miki Uemur	PROCTORS: Ashley Combs Paul Dille Tamara Piper Ann Pool Jared Rose MelanieRouse Cory Simmons Bridget Staashelm Rhonda Watson Andrew Whitsell Sherry Wray	GRADUATE ASSISTANTS: Ryan Douglas Jessica Scheuler
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PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR:
Wesley Hardee

INTERACTIVE DIGITAL MEDIA:
Brooke Beason
Timothy Lindsey
Amanda Livsey
Lee Pope

Photo: Library at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO

OUR VIEW

Fee plans have both pros, cons

On Friday, the Board of Regents will approve whether or not students will be able to pay their activity and wellness fee on a per credit hour basis or as a flat rate.

Since the inception of the wellness fee, formerly called the health fee, students have debated its usefulness. In the 2008-2009 school year, all part-time or full-time students on the Northwest campus paid a \$70 per-semester health fee. This, however, did not cover additional costs of medications, tests, etc. Simply put, just because a student paid the \$70 fee, he or she might still have additional costs after a visit to the Wellness Center.

If passed, students would pay \$5.50 per credit hour for the wellness fee. If students paid a flat rate, they would pay \$85 per semester.

As for the student activity fee, under the new plan students would be charged \$2 per credit hour instead of the flat rate of \$35 per semester. Under this plan, a student taking 18 credit hours would only pay \$36, just a \$1 more than the former fee.

Paying per credit hour has its positives and negatives. Are you more likely to visit the Wellness Center when you're taking 18 credit hours? Maybe, or maybe not.

The revised student activity fee, however, is a definite improvement from the old fee process. This way, part-time and graduate students are not paying the same amount as undergraduates, who are probably more likely to attend more on-campus events.

While students are never happy about fee increases, if the fee costs have to increase, paying per credit hour more or less seems like a better alternative to a flat rate.

Hopefully, the Board of Regents will recognize the pay per credit hour system makes more sense than charging a flat rate.



MY VIEW

Wal-mart job works for student

My name is Kit and I work at Wal-mart.

I am also a self-described liberal, and I can't remember ever being anything else. I believe in a woman's right to choose, that universal health care is not a fairy tale, and I do not believe the United States is duty-bound to spread democracy throughout the world. Go ahead, call me a tree-hugger. I won't take offense.

So how did I come to work at one of the fastest-growing corporations, when "corporation" has surpassed "Second Amendment" as the liberal dirty word?

I've been asked this very question by many of my liberal friends. Not only are they curious, some are concerned about my "enslavement to the devil's accountants." Direct quote. Seriously.

The reality is that I'd never thought about it until recently. I like working in the shoe department. It's not fast food. It's not hard manual labor. It's air-conditioned. I like my hours. I'm paid well (above minimum wage, it's a first) and I get a little time to gossip. Why should I complain?

Except, what happens? If I were to hear someone at some Wal-mart was discriminated against? So? I'm not. They underpay someone or hire an illegal immigrant? They don't where I work. So what does it matter to me?

I wonder to myself if that isn't the idea. If a corporation gives its employees the things that make them comfortable—a nice break room, a discount, good breaks—does that distract them from what they might disagree with? Things like hiring practices, merchandise from China's questionable production lines and the shut-down of small businesses that can no longer compete?

There are lots of things about Wal-mart I like. Its environmental practices are rapidly improving, thanks to the help of many environmentalists.

Why do some people want to rebel against a force that cannot be stopped? Larger than one corporation is the tide of business, multi-billion dollar, international corporations, about which nothing legal can be done. Efforts to reverse the effects of industrialization are futile at best. If you want to live outside the purview of Wal-mart, you'd better move to Africa.

Should the media and public attention be focused on what corporations do? Should we be outraged at their misdeeds? Of course. But as long as the majority of Americans keep silent, paying lip service to the anti-corporate sentiments while making no changes to their shopping habits, Wal-mart will continue to thrive.

If a corporation's actions excite your anger, do something about it. The most important thing you can do is find out more. All of the hypothetical abuses of power I mentioned above have been cited to me, by people who knew nothing about it.

Find out about it, tell people, start a petition, don't badger the employees who are only trying to make a living. If I could put myself through college serving the interests of small business, I would do it. For now, you will find me in the shoe department, stoking my liberal agenda until I can get a job at the ACLU.



Kit Dowman
Missourian Columnist

MY VIEW

Text messaging threatens to destroy our communication skills

"What we've got here... is a failure to communicate."

This movie quote accurately describes the biggest problem with our generation's communication. We believe text messaging is the culprit.

Generation Facebook (just callin' it like we see it) has become so dependent on texting that we have virtually eliminated phone calls from our daily lives, and it is turning us into a generation of people who are literally afraid to call someone and actually speak to them.

Think about it, when you have



Sarah York and Jeff Kanger
Contributing Columnists

something to say to a friend, you instinctively reach for your phone and text message him or her. Forget calling, it's much more efficient to type out a message on a tiny little keys, scroll for a friend's name in the contact list, and then send the message, right? Texting is eroding our ability to communicate effectively with one another. When we communicate with each other face to face or on the phone, we

are forced to send a clear, concise message on the first try. We don't have a backspace button, and we certainly don't have time to sit and contemplate our next move. Only by verbal communication can we hone our ability to think on our feet.

A quick text message in the place of a short phone call or voice-mail is okay, but entire conversations? Really? Texting is literally the most impersonal way to converse with someone, yet it is our prime method of communication. Texting makes it difficult to interpret tone, detect sarcasm, or even discern feeling of any kind. Is this really how we want to communicate with one another? Taking this issue of interpersonal communication one step further, since when did a short text message replace a phone call on the list of things guys are supposed to do to impress girls? Gentlemen, next time you are about to send a girl the oh-so-elegant "wat u doin'," stop for a moment and think about something. If you intend to take her on a \$12 date to La Bonita, shouldn't you at least verbalize the proposal? Surely she'll be more impressed with your courage to actually speak to her instead of send a poorly written text message.

And girls, for crying out loud, stop replacing text messages as phone call replacements. If he doesn't have the self-confidence to engage in a verbal conversation, he probably isn't worth wasting a cute outfit.

MY VIEW

Racism solution can be found in education, not skin color

The Town Hall discussion on Obama's speech, "Race in America" Monday, allowed the students of Northwest to really fully participate in not only locating the problem of racism, but also giving possible solutions to fix this problem. However, many students strayed from the topic to support other issues important to them that really had no relevance on the discussed topic.

Keep in mind that this is my opinion on the subject, and I hope that there are different opinions floating around out there because this issue will not be solved by one person, by one idea, or by one entire generation. Instead, this issue requires a coalition.

First, I believe that racism



Kathleen Wilmes
Contributing Columnist

today exists in everyone around the entire world. However, I also believe that racism today, for the most part, doesn't boil down to the color of one's skin, but rather the division between cultures. I don't think it's white v. black or any other minority, but rather prejudice occurs between the American culture and the Mexican culture—the way of living, the way of acting in the southern portion of the United States, and the way of living, the way of acting in the northern portion of the United States. The wealthy v. the poor.

Religions against other religions. The list could go on forever. Our heritage, where we come from, define a portion of who we are, our interests, and beliefs, and our standards.

If you couldn't tell by the picture, I'm white and just to throw it out there—I'm probably one of the palest people you will ever meet. I don't understand a group of people because of the amount of melanin in their skin, but rather their heritage and where they come from.

I view the way of fixing the problem of racism by the color of one's skin to be misguided and incorrect. It only encourages this division to widen, allowing more people to fall through the cracks of our system. This is what I propose.

First, I believe education is, the

most important thing and can fix the most problems. If we give more incentives to teachers to actually teach in our inner-cities, we would have better teachers in the areas that are lacking in solid education, leading to a better education of our students. That is the best advantage any person can have. I was once told that knowledge is power, and I strongly believe that to be true. An increase in knowledge would lead to an increase in success.

Second, refurbish the areas within our cities that are blighted. Instead of moving to the areas of greater wealth when one accumulates more wealth, fix the blighted areas where you live.

Instead of a city divided in three areas by the wealthy on the outskirts, the middle class in the middle and the poor in the heart of

the city, there needs to be a mixture of each class in each area of the city—a better balance.

And finally, instead of giving incentives to blacks or Hispanics or whites based on the color, base these incentives on wealth, or rather the lack thereof. Don't give me a scholarship to attend college because I'm white or black, or because I'm Catholic or Jewish. Give me a scholarship if I am at a clear disadvantage, and because I prove to you that I need it more than the other applicants.

Cultures and colors will always be different, especially in a country that historically boasts being the "melting pot" of the world.

The issue isn't just tolerating, but actually making changes to our current system to allow a wider range of benefits to encompass a wider array of people.

CAMPUS TALK

What's your opinion of the Dierks Bentley concert?



"I am fine with that,"
Tiffany Hunter
Public Relations



"I think it is great, but I am not attending, because I'm not a huge fan."
Kathryn Donovan
Public Relations



"I think it's a great idea, but I am not attending."
David Rumm
IDM - Visual Imaging



"Cool. I love country."
Tilia Brady
Financial Service



"I'm not very excited. I don't listen to country."
Audrey Goebel
Deciding

Thanks a Latte!!

Campus Dining wants to thank our 159 student employees that make it possible for us to serve our customers every day. We could not do it without you!

Caitlin Altena	Samantha Dingfelder	Katie Jones	Chris Nelson	Joshua Smith
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Natasha Auten	Darrelle Duym	Trevor Kahler	Elizabeth Nunn	Cody Spoon
Adam Auxier	David Ebke	Suryanarayana Kaligindi	Rachel Orr	Angela Stefo
Ronnie Auxier	Charles Ervin	Krishna Kanuganti	Adam Palmer	Abby Stephens
Rebecca Bagley	Jacob Fair	Brandi Kapfer	Megan Paulsen	Alicia Stiens
Billane Baker	Heather Bortner	Jennifer Kelly	Adil Perut	Annessa Stiens
Britnee Baldrige	Dylan Foss	Anshayam Kondam	Rebecca Poirier	Karen Stuart
Kerrie Bales	Amarjeet Gambhir	Tiffany Kells	Ron Funnell	Swapna Subbagari
Keyle Barner	Caycie Garner	Philip Latshaw	Suman Ratna	Chidy Sullivan
Courtney Beck	Reed Givson	Rachel Leake	Deenspriya Rameshwaram	Jason Sybert
Mackenzie Becker	Becky Graeve	Andrew Ruff	Bryce Randol	Ramya Talasila
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Daniel Boden	Michael Hamblen	Jennifer Mahan	Sara Ridinger	Maresh Thanji Subramanyam
Jessica Bowman	Farida Hasnani	Cartier Mason	Kayla Roberts	Priyatham Reddy Thatikonda
Sydney Brisbane	Richard Hemmingsen	Tiffany McClanahan	Cathryn Robertson	Margaret Thibodeau
Anne Brockmeyer	Ashley Hicks	Matt McClurg	Pamela Robinson	Derick Thorburn
Alicia Brown	Harold Hicks	Ronald McCommons Jr.	Rebecca Rouse	Patrick Tieman
Travis Brownley	Stephen Hoskins	Kasey McCormick	Sarah Rowan	Scott Tobin
Jayson Brush	Molly Huber	Shellie McGinnis	Vanessa Ryan	Courtney Twyman
Gino Bueno	Patricia Hughes	Shannon McGregor	Raghunath Sana	Prashanth Veloori Sairaj
Erin Cahill	Jessica Humes	Shannon McGregor	Reanna Santillan	Tom Voge
Britney Cheever	Andrea Isley	Shana Miles	Sundi Saxena	Adam Wagner
Venus Chhabra	Krishna Inuganti	Zahid Mohammed	Heather Schmitz	Tommy Waters
Lenard Clarendon	Sarah Jackson	Theresa Morgan	Erik Schrader	Katie Weber
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Jamie Deloske	Brittany Janning	Cassandra Mourer	Scott Shavmore	Kelli Williams
Tiffany Dentlinger	Anthony Jaspering	Tamara Murphy	C.J. Singleton	Ashley Wilson
Praveen Reddy Devaram	Steven Jensen	Phani Nagalla	Douglas Slyman	Jacob Wood
Mackenzie Diekmann	Shawn Jones	Amanda Nelson	Cara Smith	Fumi Yasukochi

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CITY BRIEFS

Golf Classic benefits local healthcare

The Tobin Benefit Golf Classic will be held May 22 and 23 and will benefit the St. Francis Hospital Foundation.

The classic is the single largest fundraising event for the St. Francis Foundation and so far it has raised over \$600,000 since it began in 1991.

For more information, on the Tobin Benefit Golf Classic, to register a team, volunteer or purchase a tee-off celebration ticket, please call Niki Crump at 562-7993.

Maryville High alum joins St. Francis staff

Jason Scott is the most recent addition to the Rehab and Sports Medicine staff at St. Francis Hospital and Health Services.

Scott officially joined the department April 1.

After graduating from Maryville High School in 1987, he received a bachelor's degree in corporate wellness from Northwestern in 1993. He moved to Chicago and obtained an Associate of Applied Science degree. He completed his doctorate degree in physical therapy at Midwestern University.

Children's mental health day this May

National children's mental health awareness day is May 8. To celebrate, the Northwest Missouri mental task force will provide bracelets to fourth and eighth graders in schools throughout Nodaway County.

The bracelets will read "Think well, be well" with the goal of increasing children's mental health. If you have any questions how to find resources for your own child please contact Ileen Richy-Arellin with Family Guidance Center at 582-3139.

Summertime is quickly approaching



Message from
CAMPUS SAFETY
562-1254

Some things to remember about parking on campus during the summer:

• All parking rules and regulations are enforced 24/7 during the summer.

• If you have a resident permit and move off campus, you may trade in your resident permit for a commuter permit at the student services desk free of charge.

• We have a lot of visitors on campus during the summer time so please be mindful of our guests.

• There will be various street and curb repairs around campus this summer so please be patient with the flow of traffic and any and all possible road closings.

• All vehicles that park on campus need proper registration.

• Campus Safety is here 24/7 to provide a temporary permit for your vehicle, even before those early 7:30am summer classes!

• For temporary permits and answers to your questions please call Campus Safety at 562-1254.

COMMUNITY

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Board of Education member gets re-elected

By Katie Luers
Missourian Reporter



Roger Baker
School Board

Roger Baker thought a long time about running for the Maryville Board of Education.

Within three years of his first term he had been elected by the board as president.

He was elected last week to his second term on the Board.

Baker grew up in Maryville and went to college at Northwest.

"I left the town for a couple years, and then came back and joined the family business here," Baker said.

He came back to Maryville 28

years ago to work for Maryville Typewriter Exchange, an office supply store that was originally owned by his grandpa in 1935.

Baker wasn't sure if he wanted to be a member of the board, although his friends encouraged him to run.

"I thought about it for several years, and different people asked me about it.... Then I got to the point where it was time to give something back to the community... I felt a need to serve the community," Baker said.

It took about a year for Baker to learn the system of the Board well enough to be efficient.

"I was kind of lost the first year. I just sat there and listened to what was going on for about the first year and a half or so. The first term was really a learning experience about how things were run," Baker said.

During his first three-year term, Baker was a regular member for the first year. During his second year he became the boards vice president, and became president the final year of that term.

"I thought the district made a lot of progress that year.... The superintendent was in the process of making a lot of changes and upgrades," Baker said. "It was rewarding to be a part of that and see that happen."

The position of president of the board is traditionally rotated around board members, Baker said.

"The main contributions of the board during the last three years was to 'upgrade technology and the food service program' Baker said.

The school has also been more competitive in hiring teachers Baker said.

The school has been recognized by the state with "distinction," Vice President Boyles said.

"This title has allowed the district to be a leader, not a follower," Boyles said.

The Board of Education will vote for the executive positions again soon. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 16.

Baker will not run for the position of president again this term.

"Maybe in a couple of years I'll try it again," Baker said.

"I don't have anything personally as an agenda or anything," Baker said. "I rely on the superintendent and the administrators and what goals they have set for the district. My job is to help them achieve those goals."

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS TAX

Road improvements expected this summer

By Micheal Clements
Chief reporter

The Capitol Improvements Tax passed last week, with 60 percent voters in favor.

Citizens should see improvements starting as early as this summer, City Manager Matt LeCerc said.

The Capitol improvements tax will be implemented starting July 1st.

"The plan is to try to do something this summer in terms of street improvements," LeCerc said.

The city's goal is to get something started in 90 days, but revenue won't start coming into the city budget until October.

"We feel that we need to do something and now and the condition of the roads warrant doing something now," LeCerc said.

The city may float a special obligation note and pay it back as the tax money starts coming in, he said.

The estimated total for the capital improvement tax is \$7.9 million over 10 years with \$4.8 million going toward street improvements.

"We want to do something now,

we feel that we need to do something and now and the condition of the roads warrant doing something now, LeCerc said."

A portion of the tax money will go towards Maryville Public Safety. The department will receive several pieces of fire equipment including two new fire trucks, Director Keith Wood said.

"Having been associated with the city now for almost 19 years and watching the evolution of the budget it was frightening to think about what was going to happen if it didn't pass," Wood said. "I'm confident that we can continue providing the services to the city that they're accustomed to having."

Public safety hopes to have a state-of-the-art storm-warning siren to replace the current warning system made possible through the tax. In addition to the various tones, the sirens will also have a voice notification, he said.

There is also a proposal to place a siren at the Mozingo Lake recreation area, Wood added.

Other improvements include resurfacing city parking lots, replacing public works snow trucks, trail developments through grants, water, sewer and storm

Allocation of funds

\$7,900,000 total
\$1,000,000 water, sewer and storm water repairs
\$4,800,000 Street program
\$300 emergency siren system
\$700 trail development leveraged with grants
\$200,000 city parking lot resurfacing projects
\$200,000 Public Works snow truck replacement
\$130,000 Public Safety fire brush truck
\$200,000 fire pumping truck

water repairs.

Just over 1,000 voters turned out last Tuesday out of nearly 5,000 registered voters, LeCerc said.

"You talk to people in the community and although they support it the sentiment coming across was it's going to be tough," LeCerc said. "We were very pleased though that the citizens trusted us to do the right thing, and we intend on fulfilling that expectation that they have."

COMMUNITY

STORE CLOSING



LINDSEY CARROLL LOOKS through a clothing rack at Maryville's Sport Shop. Store owner Tiffany Scott is closing the retail portion of the store after difficulties with the public. Al and Pat Turner established Sport Shop in 1976, and the building was originally a pizzeria and music store. Scott bought the business in 2004.

Bottom of the ninth Sport Shop to close after 32 years of business

By Dominic Genetti
Community News Editor

Sitting at the cash register drinking an orange Sunkist soda in a black Northwest Bears T-shirt, Tiffany Scott calculates her 2007 taxes.

The afternoon sun shines through her store's front windows, creating shadows from the signs taped inside them. She never planned to hang up signs reading "Everything must go," but after a little more than years of business, that time has come.

Nestled between The Pub and Domino's Pizza on Main Street in Maryville, Scott, 26, owns Sport Shop, a small athletic store with her husband, Ben.

"I thought when I bought this place, I had planned on doing this the rest of my life," Tiffany said. "I had planned on being here and just keeping the retail store and it just hasn't worked out like that."

Competition or economy usually forces a business to close its doors, however, Scott said that's not the case. The public has just become too hard to handle.

"People can be very rude, very mean," she said. "Sometimes the personal attacks start to affect the way you operate your business."

Selling a variety of Maryville Spoofounds and Northwest Bears apparel and accessories, Sport Shop is also known for its embroidery and engraving.

Tentatively, the store will close April 25. If everything isn't sold, items may be auctioned or put for sale on the Internet.

"I guess the thing that really upsets me the most is I have a lot of regulars that I will miss," Tiffany said. "A lot of them have been really upset, very disappointed."

Scott purchased Sport Shop in February 2004 from Al and Pat Turner, the original owners.

"I thought that it looked like it would be a lot of fun, successful and that it would be a good purchase," Scott said.

The Turners opened Sport Shop in 1976 in its current location at 418 Main St.

The building was a music shop in the '40s and '50s and then a pizzeria in the '60s and '70s.

"We hate to see it go," Al said.

A native of Maryville, Scott originally planned to start an embroidery and engraving business of her own, but found purchasing Sport Shop a better fit.

"I was a stay at home Mom and I was bored and wanted something to do, so I bought it," she

said. "The first couple of years were a little rough and then in the past two years, I'd been very busy and it's been very successful."

Sport Shop's closing leaves two athletic stores in downtown Maryville, the Student Body and Jack's Nitch.

Scott said unfortunately people will eventually leave small town shopping behind for purchases in nearby cities like St. Joseph.

"(Wal-Mart doesn't) carry Nike, they don't carry Adidas and New Balance when it comes to shoes and sporting goods stuff," she said.

Despite the future of the store, Scott plans to remain the owner of the Sport Shop building renting it out to a future tenant.

"We've had a couple lookers but I haven't really published it too much," Scott said. "If we have to, we'll stay here until it gets rented."

Scott will continue a business of screen-printing, embroidery and engraving.

"The screen-printing and the embroidery and the engraving trophies, that kind of stuff is very profitable, but when you cover the retail side it doesn't really make it enjoyable," she said. "I guess I felt that the retail side of the business would have been more profitable, and I think that was my biggest disappointment."

"I guess I felt that the retail side of this business would have been more profitable, and I think that was my biggest disappointment."

Tiffany Scott, Sport Shop owner

SPRING CLEANUP

Ice storm debris holds back annual cleanup

By Erin Loges
Missourian Reporter

Maryville postponed the annual spring cleanup until storm debris has been completely removed. During spring cleanup days, residents can place unwanted items on the curb for city pickup.

"We will probably not talk about spring cleanup until we get all the storm debris picked up," Public Works Director Greg Decker said.

City crews have been picking up tree limbs from curbs.

City crews have not been able to get all of the storm debris picked up yet, leaving some residents upset.

"We're just ready to get all of it out of our yard," Maryville resident Lisa Bowman said.

City limb removal has been slowed down by inclement weather.

"During the first week, we had some weather related issues that

prevented us getting done as quickly as we'd hoped," Decker said.

Decker urged citizens waiting for city workers to come by to have patience.

"As long as people have their storm debris at the curb we will get there eventually," Decker said.

Maryville is receiving state and federal aid to help with tree limb cleanup.

"Federal Emergency Management Agency paying for 75 percent of all costs, and the State emergency management agency is paying 10 percent of the cost," Decker said. "15 percent of the cleanup will be paid for by the city of Maryville."

Maryville citizens can expect to hear about spring cleanup as soon as limb removal is completed.

"Efforts are concentrated on storm debris pickup," Decker said. "Hopefully by mid-May we can talk about spring cleanup, but I'm just speculating."

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HOUSING: Maryville market, with fewer listings, higher prices, misses U.S. slump

Continued from A1

"teaser" rates, Schieber said. Rates escalated when the adjustable period hit. Prices then escalated. "(The Midwest) doesn't have those fluctuations in the housing market," Schieber said. "We're less densely populated, for one. People are just not going to be willing to pay those escalating prices. There's a supply-and-demand factor there."

There's a time and a place for

any mortgage, Schieber said. Buyers expecting to move in five years or fewer might consider an adjustable mortgage. Those staying long-term, who can spread out a fixed interest rate over several years, could live with a fixed-rate mortgage.

Twaddle predicts a strong market for both buyers and sellers. In fact, he said the national news spin has many thinking now's the time to catch a steal on a home. On the contrary, the median home price increased from \$117,000 last year to

\$128,000 this year.

Fewer homes are on the market compared to last year, but prices rose, Twaddle said.

The Maryville Multiple-Listing Service boasted 149 residential listings inside Maryville. At this point, it boasts around 137.

Right now is actually a fine time to buy a home, Twaddle said. There's also a right way for anybody to buy one.

"There's a right loan for everybody," Schieber said.



JUMPING UP AND down with excitement with flags in hand, children from St. Francis Preschool and Child Care on South Main stood out in the cold Friday morning to see the parade of Maryville troops leaving for Kosovo. The came out early to support the troops and see the parade because they missed the troops leaving last year.

AID: Students need to prepare for changes

Continued from A1

adjust for changes on students accounts in the first couple weeks of classes, instead of charging the students after their checks have been already prepared.

"Hopefully this will ease this problem with not paying the \$200 past due because we're not going to be giving the refund as soon," Christensen said. "It's going to be a week and a half later, and they need to know that and be prepared when they come to school."

...The \$200 limit will affect

roughly 300 students, she added.

"We try to help the students as much as possible, but we're going to have to be stricter, and it's kind of out of our hands, just hopefully students will understand," Christensen said.

Financial Assistance Director Del Morley said that it will take about a year for students to adjust to the new policies. While it is an inconvenience, it is a good and necessary change, Morley said.

"It's going to be a problem for a few students and I sympathize with them," Morley said. "But I also

know that there are a group of students that didn't have extenuating circumstances, and they're going to have to deal with it."

Morley also suggests that there are ways that students can pay off loans with little trouble. Students could get a job, ask a family member, or as a last resort, seek out private loans, he said.

"Obviously this isn't going to be an issue for new students coming in because they don't know any better," Morley said. "It's going to take some time for transition for the rest of the students."

CENTER: Parking, traffic are concerns

Continued from A1

block east from the proposed site. He's lived in the house since 1991.

"As far as my place it's not going to affect me a whole lot ... other than the increased traffic. But why I am taking such an interest in it is my neighbors who will be drastically affected," Ewing said.

While the center's location remains a concern, neighbors have other fears.

There has been varying information on the size of the facility, and the plans are always changing which has led to mistrust, Ewing said.

There are plans for a conference room that can be divided into smaller rooms, Sutton said.

When the Foundation first announced a banquet room, they said it would hold 200 to 300 people. As time went on, they said it would hold 500 people, Brundridge said.

Their goal is to make the conference room in the center hold more number of people than the ballroom in the J.W. Jones Student Union, Sutton said. They are in the planning process right now so a maximum number has not yet been set, Sutton said.

"We want to make sure that the building is definitely alumni

friendly where we can have events that more than 25 or 30 can come back to ... we want to make sure that we have enough room that we can have a lot of our alumni come back, in greater numbers than the 25 to 30," Sutton said.

Brundridge's biggest concern is when third parties rent the banquet room because of potential parking and traffic issues.

One of the first things the Foundation should put together is guidelines with the regulations for renting the facility, Brundridge said.

A procedures manual has not yet been developed to decide what the facility can be used for and who is allowed to use it, Sutton said.

Right now it isn't known if the facility can be rented out to third parties, Sutton said.

"We definitely want to establish some guidelines and we will establish some guidelines with the standard operating procedure of the facility itself, who will be able to use it, what type of groups will be able to use it and so on ... we'll develop it in due time," Sutton said.

Mass Communication Assistant Professor Eric Covill knew he would eventually have to relocate for the building of the proposed Alumni Center when moving into the Foundation owned rental property.

Covill thought he needed to leave the rental house he is currently renting from the Foundation at 325 N. Munn by the end of February. The Foundation let him know he could stay until the end of the spring semester.

"In the mean time, I've been working with the Foundation on being in one of their other properties," Covill said.

Covill is interested in renting from the Foundation again but stressed nothing is final. If the Foundation has another house that fits his needs he may be interested, he said.

"I was never mad at them, I was mad at the situation," Covill said.

Sutton doesn't think everyone shares the neighbors' opinion.

"What they feel like may be detrimental to the integrity of the neighborhood is an opinion, one person's opinion, may not be everyone's opinion," Sutton said.

Neighbors and officials will continue to discuss plans for development.

"I think just like anything, communication is key, and when you don't have communication the only thing you can do is speculate at that point, and that's all that's been occurring to this point," Brundridge said.

FEE: Students can vote to increase fees, bypass Missouri bill's rules on tuition

Continued from A1

and health services assistant director.

The wellness fee would change from \$85 per trimester to \$5.50 per credit hour.

The textbook usage fee would increase funds to replace outdated books by purchasing newer editions. The fee would also include purchasing books for new classes students may need, Elliott said.

Previously if students had to pay for books that are not supplied by the University, many would not take the class, Elliott said.

"That becomes a barrier for us being able to expand our curricu-

lum to our students," Elliott said. "We need to be sure that we remove any obstacles we can."

The fee would be increased from \$5 to \$6 per credit hour.

The student activities fee students pay now is used for concerts, speakers and other activities. The fee would still focus on bringing activities for students to campus. This fee would change from a flat per trimester fee of \$35 to a \$2 per credit hour fee.

Student Regent Aaron Baker helped to commission the proposal for the increase in fees.

"The new system is a graded system, so students will pay for what they use," Baker said.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education office has set the cap for raising the base tuition at 4.1 percent according to the stipulations of Missouri Senate Bill 389. But students can elect to raise fees even if doing so pushes tuition above the Consumer Price Index according to the bill.

The students don't have the authority to make legislative decisions; the board has those powers. But the Student Senate has recognized the Senate Bill as being the one to have discussions and grant approval, Courter said.

"Students have approved it and they are allowed to do that," Courter said. "Hopefully the board also recognizes it."

SPORTS



Jordan Stiens

HOUNDS

ERA OF EXCELLENCE

Trio occupies 5 slots in school record books

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

When Taylor Gadbois dug her spikes into the starting blocks, she had no idea an event 26 years in the making was about to happen.

After all, she was just a nervous freshman competing in her first high school track meet.

Even as she stood at the finish line after her victorious sprint in the 100-meter dash at the Chillicothe's Joe Shy Relays, she was still completely unaware of what occurred.

But when she looked down at the stopwatch and saw it, it dawned on her.

"Actually, I didn't think I did very good, but I was really excited when I saw it (the time)," Gadbois said. "I was jumping up and down. I couldn't speak. I was just so happy."

12.47.
Her first 100 meters as a Spoonhound were the best in the school's history. The time broke Stacy Schieber's 1982 school best of 12.50.

She had no idea she was about to erase history, but her coach had little doubt she would accomplish this soon.

"I expected her to break it (in Chillicothe) just because in practice, she was running so well," coach Grant Hageman said. "You just get a feeling about something, and we thought she'd have a really good chance of breaking it, so I wasn't really surprised."

Gadbois' mark is the most recent, but she is not the only 'Hound to currently hold a school record.

Senior long jumper Jenny Zweifel has the long jump mark, while sophomore Jordan Stiens' name appears next to the 100- and 300-meter hurdles.

Coming into her sophomore season, Zweifel did not appear destined to be immortalized in the record book, with her personal record hovering around 14 feet, which was at most four feet short of the then-school record of 17.8.

But one jump midway through her sophomore season got her

to alter her technique and changed her path. Zweifel's 16-foot, 3-inch leap shattered her prior mark by nearly a foot.

With a brand new form and confidence, Zweifel was now a legitimate threat in the MEC. Her 16-foot jump (sixth place) at sectionals in 2006 nearly got her to state and the school record started to enter into her mind.

"When Jenny gained her confidence, that's when things really took off for her," Hageman said. "Then, she set that goal of breaking that record and once she set that goal, the type of person Jenny Zweifel is, she's going to break it."

As the 2007 MEC Championships rolled around, Zweifel was the favorite to take the gold medal. She placed second in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, but her focus remained on the sand pit.

"It was a really great day weather-wise and I had a lot of adrenaline," Zweifel said. "We were in the process of winning the conference title as a team, and I definitely felt great things were going to happen that day."

Her prediction turned out to be accurate. Zweifel's new school-record jump of 17-feet 9 1/2 broke the Maryville record by an inch and a half, obliterated the field by two feet and set the MEC meet record.

She couldn't help but get caught up in the moment.

"It was surreal. It felt like slow motion coming out of the sand," she said. "My coach had her hands on her cheeks and my dad was next to me. My coach, my dad and my teammates were all jumping up and down. I didn't know what to do."

Her new career-best was now among Class 3's best, but a state title was not in her plans, as she had made those months in advance. Zweifel planned a trip to France that precluded her from competing against Class 3's best and even though her top leap would have taken the gold, she wouldn't change her decision if she had the chance.

Though she admits it was difficult during that time, thinking about the other path was there for her.

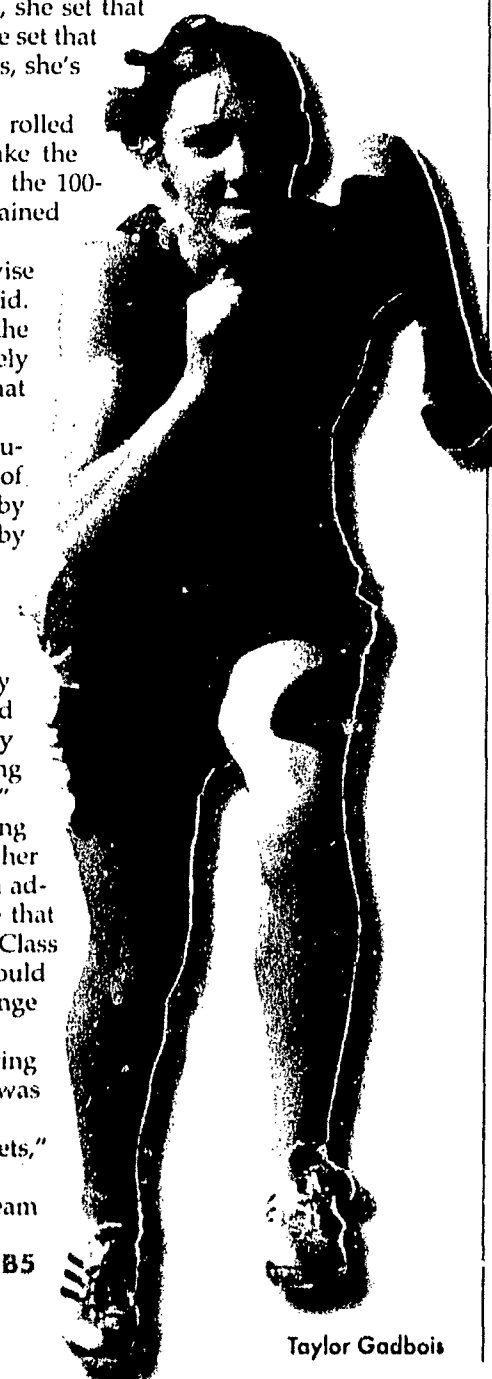
"I like to live my life saying no regrets," Zweifel said.

"I really wanted to be there with my team

See ERA on B5

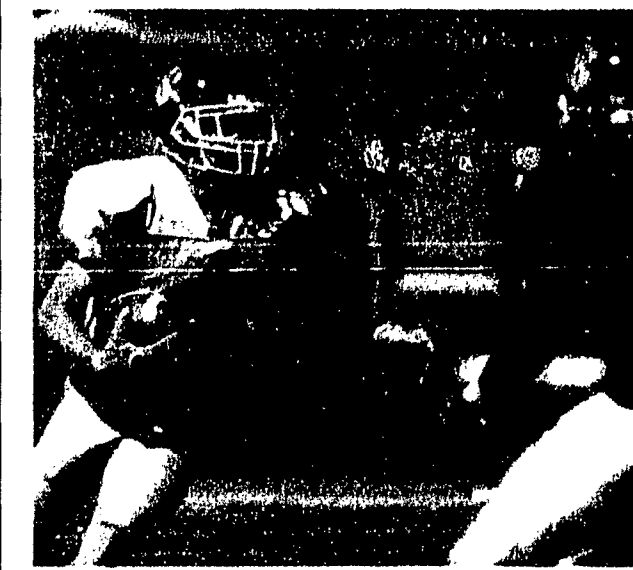


Jenny Zweifel



Taylor Gadbois

NW FOOTBALL



UPCOMING NORTHWEST SENIOR Kendall Wright looks for an opening during the spring football scrimmage last Sunday. Wright leads a core of receivers returning to a team that looks to qualify for its fourth straight national championship game.

Newcomers fill depleted roster

Northwest starts life without Xavier Omon

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

Few seniors could be seen on the field during last Sunday's Green and White Scrimmage at Bearcat Stadium.

Some were out with injuries, but most of the seniors had to sit out the spring in order to be eligible for next season. Coach Mel Tjeerdsma, preparing for his 15th season at Northwest, said he was pleased with the performance of some of the younger players.

"I thought we got a lot accomplished in those 14 practices. We got off to a slow start today, but I thought things really picked up," Tjeerdsma said.

Three of the offense's four touchdowns came from reserve players. Blake Bolles found Sydney Brisbane for a 22-yard touchdown pass. Tyler Herl, a freshman from Topeka, Kan., had two touchdown passes.

Quarterback Joel Osborn, who is expected to start next season, said he was glad to see his under studies perform so well during the spring.

"That's what you want. You want people to push you and keep that competition factor," Osborn said. "It's only going to help your team. As a team, I think we could've played a lot better. Nobody kept their heads down. Everybody just kept fighting as hard as they could. Our biggest goal in the spring was to improve, and I think we did that."

Osborn and wide receiver Kendall Wright were the only seniors who saw significant time. Osborn completed eight of 13 passes and orchestrated a reverse that Wright took 20 yards for a touchdown.

Defensive coordinator Scott Bostwick saw some encouraging things from the underclassmen. Through the first few series inside the red zone, the defense made several stops at the line of scrimmage. The

See ROSTER on B5

NW SOFTBALL

Inconsistent hitting causes twinbill sweep

By Scott Levine
Sports Editor

The Northwest softball team experienced no favors from the wind Tuesday against Washburn.

The Bearcats lifted the ball towards the right field fence twice, where a 35-mile-per-hour wind with gusts up to 43 miles per hour, aided three homers and caused fielding adventures during the Lady Blues' doubleheader sweep.

Washburn launched nine balls to right field, during a 6-0 game one win and 9-4 game two victory.

"I told them before the game, everything was going to move," Northwest coach Ryan Anderson said. "You have to expect everything to drop. Both teams had trouble dealing with the wind, and we combined for a lot of drops."

The teams combined for five errors in game two. Northwest totaled four of those errors, and they proved costly.

With one out in the first inning of game two, Washburn's Mandy Tarbuton doubled to left field, and Brooke DeVader followed by reaching base via an error.

The next batter, Dani White, homered to right, giving the Lady Blues a 3-0 advantage. Washburn lacked on three more unearned runs during the next three innings, forcing Northwest starter Kelly Morris to exit the game giving up two earned runs and four hits.

See SWEEP on B5

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NW BASEBALL

Errors costly in 23-run slugfest

By Sam Robinson
Community Sports Editor

After taking three of four from Washburn during the weekend, the Northwest baseball team ran into multiple fronts of trouble, Tuesday.

On a day where the wind was heavy even by Maryville standards (gusts of up to 43 miles per hour), the Bears committed six errors and fell 13-10 to the Nebraska-Kearney Lopers despite out-hitting them.

It wasn't just the errors that bothered coach Dan Loe, it was the amount of free baserunners (13) his pitching staff allowed.

"We gave them at least a dozen free baserunners between errors, walks and hit-by-pitches," Loe said. "You just can't do that. We swung the bats well enough to win, you can't expect to score 14 runs with the wind blowing in. We just didn't do our job; either on the mound or defensively."

In the teams' first meeting since March 1992, the Bears (22-16, 12-10 MIAA) did not appear to be affected by the wind early, as catcher Kreed Kurtz belted a home run against the wind in the second inning. Trevor Conner followed with a double and a run and the ingredients were in place for the 'Cats' fourth win in their last five games.

But Danny Malone and his mound mates were not able to match the early production. Malone's first hit allowed, a thunderous Kyle Smith two-run home run, drove him from the deadlocked game. His relievers did not put out the fire, as Ben Stedronski and Adam Switzer allowed nine runs, though four of Stedronski's were unearned.

The fifth was particularly troublesome for Northwest with Kearney (21-20) plating five runs. The 'Cats could have gotten out of the inning with a 4-2 lead, but, with Loper runner, Trey Howell, trapped between third and home, third baseman Ben Malik's throw was too late to tag Howell out and he scored.

Kearney designated hitter Nate Searer made matters worse when his double took a difficult hop past leftfielder Chris Benham to punctuate the inning.

The Lopers padded their lead with three runs in the

sixth, but the 'Cats would creep back into it, scoring four runs in the sixth and two in the seventh. Shortstop Ryan Bledsoe led off the charge with a solo home run, while Chris Benham and Kreed Kurtz combined for five RBIs in the two frames.

But the Lopers would score three more in the eighth to preserve the victory.

With Northwest registering 13 hits to Kearney's 11, the loss cannot be pinned on the lineup.

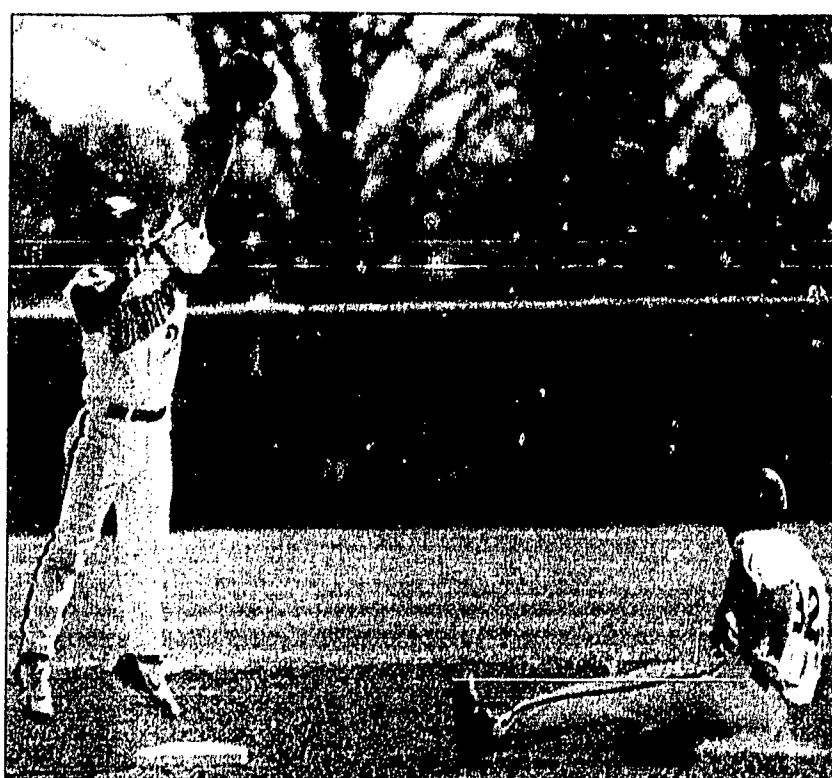
"I told our hitters: don't change a thing," Loe said. "We hit a lot of balls hard and it was a tough day to hit today with the wind blowing. I thought our hitters did a great job. You can't expect to score 14 runs day-in and day-out because your pitching is poor. I hope we can keep swinging the bats like that, but we've got to figure out our pitching."

The 'Cats did take three of the four games against Washburn, including a 15-0 hammering, in game two. Eleven of the runs came against the MIAA's second-best pitcher, Curtis Hamilton (according to ERA). Britt Westman homered twice on the day, while Jeff Gradel Jr. pitched seven scoreless frames.

While Hamilton did not deliver Sunday, Northwest ace Brett Harvel did just that on Monday. The junior tossed seven innings of shutout ball with five strikeouts and just two hits allowed in Northwest's 8-0 win.

Harvel's outing did not carry over into game four though as the 'Cats were blasted 18-4.

Northwest faces its most strenuous test this season when it travels to No. 5 Emporia State (36-3, 22-0 MIAA) Friday.



NORTHWEST SHORTSTOP RYAN Bledsoe keeps an errant throw from going into centerfield in Tuesday's 13-10 loss to Nebraska-Kearney.

Kurtz isn't ready to crown the Hornets yet however and thinks the games may be closer than some envision.

"It's not like we're playing the Yankees," Kurtz said. "They're another college baseball team. Yeah, they're doing well, but I'd say we're doing pretty well too. It's going to be a good game. Our goal is to knock them off."

The four-game series' first pitch is at 7 p.m., Friday, at Emporia.

BEARCATS

NW TRACK

Shifting schedule causes confusion

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

First, they were on. Then, they were off. Then, they were on again.

A scheduling make-up forced the Northwest track team to face up its spikes at the Papa John's Division II Challenge in Emporia (Kan.) instead of the originally scheduled Jim Duncan Invitational in Des Moines.

"As much as I don't like to think it had an effect, it did," distance runner Anna O'Brien said of the scheduling change. "Running on Sunday definitely threw me off."

The change in routine forced O'Brien to drive herself to the meet, compete and drive back immediately because of class meetings. The hectic schedule didn't give her much time to prepare mentally, she said. O'Brien still managed a fourth place finish in the 1,500-meter run. Audrey Bailey took first in the 400-meter hurdles with a time just over one minute, four seconds.

As a team, the women finished seventh with a total score of 74 points, but coach Scott Lorek liked what he saw out of his athletes.

"I mentioned at the home meet that we had some mental problems," Lorek said. "We did not have those at Emporia. Now, because of the wind, we had some things that weren't possible, but overall I thought we did well."

The weather made things difficult for the men as well. John Miles finished fifth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.92 seconds — more than half a second slower than his record setting time the week before.

The wind played a factor, but Miles also struggled with the scheduling change.

"I know it sounds weird, but once things get out of routine, that makes it harder," Miles said. "My biggest issue was just not loosening up. My body was real tight."

Miles chose to use this meet as a work out toward the KU Relays, one of the country's most well-known track meets, and conference meet, in early May.

"It's kind of like a football game because there are so many people there," Miles said. "I'm looking forward to seeing some of my old friends. Plus, there are some professionals there, so if you get into the elite heat, you get to compete against the best."

The men finished ninth in last weekend's Division II Challenge, but left many of their athletes behind to play in the Bearcat football teams' spring game.

"I think workout wise and conditioning wise, we're right where we need to be," men's coach Richard Alsop said.

The men's and women's teams will compete in the KU Relays starting April 17 in Lawrence, Kan.

SPOOFHOUNDS

MHS GOLF

Senior, freshman propel team past Pirates, Fighting Irish

By Marcus Meade
Asst. Sports Editor

Howling winds changed the approach for Maryville golfers, Tuesday, but it wasn't enough to stop them.

The Spoofhounds defeated Lafayette and Platte County by posting a 169, tying a season high.

"It was really windy," coach Brenda Ricks said. "So, under the circumstances, 169 is really good."

High winds can change the way golfers approach a course.

"It makes you definitely change the way you look at a golf course," senior Zack Jackson said. "Occasionally, you have to change shots or clubs to go longer or shorter."

Jackson led Maryville scorers with a 41 on nine holes. Every 'Hound came in with a score under 50 including freshman Trevor Shell who shot a 42. The 'Hounds' other senior, Luke Hendrix, shot a 43.

Ricks said consistency among her golfers helps during team competition. Freshmen Shell and Tanner Reames help provide the depth necessary to win in team competition.

"It's a great feeling," Reames said. "The

two seniors are great to get along with."

Hendrix showed some of his greatness on Monday during the Maryville Best Ball Invitational, winning the individual scoring title with a 77.

Maryville also took the team title with a 169, using a different format than Tuesday's meet. Other teams in the competition included Lafayette and LeBlond. LeBlond took second with a score of 151.

The 'Hounds saw their first day of good weather in competition during the home tournament.

"This is the best day we've seen in the last two years for this tournament," Ricks said. "We've had so many meets canceled; it's tough with districts coming up."

But Jackson doesn't see the team's shortened schedule as a much of an obstacle. He said that the 'Hounds' experience and depth helps when the end of the season comes around.

"You have to take four of the five scores," Jackson said. "So, it's really nice if you have a bad day to know that someone else can make up for it."

The 'Hounds get another chance to prepare when they host Bedford (Iowa) at 4:30 p.m. today.

MHS SOCCER



MIDFIELDERS LIBBEY HOWELL and Abbie Florea wrestle the ball away from a Chillicothe defender. The girls fought strong wind gusts in their 4-1 victory.

Passes help thwart wind during victory

By Dustin Sander
Missourian Reporter

The conditions didn't derail the Maryville girls' soccer team Tuesday.

Against Chillicothe and a roaring wind, the Spoofhounds remained in control during the game's duration, winning 4-1.

Maryville tallied three first-half goals, with the first coming in the game's first five minutes.

The majority of the game took place on Chillicothe's end of the field, leaving 'Hounds' goalie Erica Espey virtually untested.

Chillicothe only took four shots on goal opposed to Maryville's 14.

The 'Hounds' passing excelled today, in the strong winds, creating many open shots on goal, Maryville coach Bayo Oludaja said.

"The wind was good for (us), our passing looked good, and we could control the game," Oludaja said.

Oludaja added that the strong winds made moving the ball difficult and affected the ball so much, the team didn't know where it would land.

"We played smart in this wind

and moved the ball well," senior Shayna Waszli said.

All four of the Maryville goals came from four different players.

Seniors Ashley Blanchard and Abbie Florea recorded goals in the first half.

The 'Hounds also played a tournament in Excelsior Springs last weekend, where they took the consolation prize.

The 'Hounds played in weather ranging from strong winds to rain to even snow in the tournament last weekend.

Maryville suffered a tough loss to Belton in the first game last Friday. The 'Hounds suffered the defeat in the game's 80th minute.

The girls recovered and won the next two matches against Savannah and Lafayette to take the consolation prize.

"We played smart all weekend and did well with the bad weather," Waszli said.

Platte County placed first in the Excelsior Spring tournament.

Maryville squares off against Cameron at 4:30 p.m., today, at home.

NW WOMEN'S GOLF

Team finishes eighth at Park University Spring Invite

By Brett Barger
University Sports Editor

The Northwest women's golf team finished eighth out of 12 teams at the Park Invitational Tuesday.

Jessica Feuerbach led Northwest with a two-day total of 189. She had a 91 during Monday's opening round and had a 98 on Tuesday. Feuerbach, a freshman from Iowa City, Iowa, finished tied for 30th out of 82 golfers.

Sarah Hayes finished second for

Northwest. Hayes finished with a team-best 88 during Tuesday's final round. It was a nice recovery for the freshman from Maryville after recording a 104 on Monday. She finished tied for 37th overall.

Overall, the team scored a 771 at the Invitational. Rockhurst won the Invitational with a team score of 695. Missouri Western was the only MIAA school at the meet, and finished seventh—just nine strokes ahead of Northwest.

The Invitational was the first meet

for Northwest that wasn't interrupted by weather since March 18 at the Missouri Western Invitational. Last Thursday at the Avila Invitational, lightning and hail suspended opening round play.

The last four holes on Thursday were finished Friday, but only nine holes on the second day were completed because of course conditions.

In the end, Northwest took first out of three teams. Featherbach finished second overall with a 27-hole total of 128.

Hayes finished one stroke back with a 129. The first-place finish is the second for Northwest this year. The 'Cats took first at the Yellowjacket Invitational on Sept. 17. It was just only their second meet of the year.

Northwest hosts the Bearcat Classic Invitational April 24 at Mozingo Lake Golf Course. The meet closes out Northwest golf's first year as a varsity sport. Last fall, Northwest finished second out of five teams in its first meet as a varsity sport.

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NWMSU, MHS Athletes of the Week

Bledsoe
The senior shortstop had a home run and a double in Northwest's 13-10 loss to Nebraska-Kearney and is batting .359 on the year.

Carper
The outfielder had five hits Tuesday in a doubleheader against Washburn at Bearcat Field.

Gadbois
The freshman sprinter broke her own school record in the 100-meter dash with a 12.45 and broke a 31-year-old 200-meter dash mark (26.17) Tuesday night in Kearney.

Jackson
The senior golfer led Maryville with a 41 through nine holes in its victory over Platte County and Lafayette Tuesday.

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COLUMN

Sports and Hollywood combine in editor's last Missourian hurrah



Scott Levine
Sports Editor

Like always, I procrastinated to almost the very last second to produce my column this week. So sitting in the Missourian basement Monday, I asked my fellow colleagues, Sam and Marc, if anything interesting happened in sports this week. Marc responded with his usual intelligent comment "I don't know," while Sam actually seemed like the wheels were turning in his head. Finally, Sam said "Who's the Jack Bauer of sports?" Brilliant.

So we put our collective heads together and thought of what other athletes best represented our favorite small screen characters. Jack Bauer.

This is the ultimate honor. To be like

Jack Bauer ("24"), you must sacrifice yourself for the betterment of your country, or at least in our instance, the team. Also, you have to be the unsung hero of a solid operation, like CTU (Counter Terrorist Unit). This award must go to Marvin Harrison.

He never whines, never asks for another contract and will do anything for his team to win.

Take Harrison's 124th reception in 2002 to break the season reception record. Harrison caught the ball and handed it back to the official.

If given the chance, Harrison would tell Tony Dungy not to go for it on a risky fourth down, just like when Bauer told David Palmer not to go to war in season two, even though Tony Almeida (Peyton Manning) said he should.

Michael Scott

Michael Scott, the quirky boss on "The Office," is our next comparison. Scott's

main attribute lies with his uncanny ability to say stuff no one else would say and still get away with it. Ozzie Guillen is the only person in the sports world this pertains to.

Guillen basically says whatever he wants and has all the job security in the world, just like Scott.

Johnny Drama

The TV show "Vikings Quest" got canceled and Johnny Drama's ("Entourage") life continually spirals downward. Since only current players could be considered for this role, we could narrow our choices, excluding Donnie Moore and Mitch Williams.

Drama's role belongs to one man still in sports — Brad Lidge. Lidge just hasn't found his form since Albert Pujols sent a moon shot over the left field fence that still hasn't landed.

Zack Morris

The pretty boy of "Saved by the Bell,"

WHAT TO WATCH?

Scott's TV Picks
Saturday
Chicago White Sox at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m. WGN — The White Sox are doing much better and just like 2005, they can credit solid starting pitching, a steady bullpen and clutch hitting. Also, I'm hoping A.J. Pierzynski can help my fantasy team, and maybe by this time Joe Crede will join the squad. The Sox need to keep rolling to ward off those pesky Royals. Wait a second. It's the Royals.

Days rating (5 of 5)
Sunday
Major League, 11:20 a.m. TBS — "I only have one thing to say to you Vaughn, Strike this (guy) out." At least that's the version I'll be watching on this day.

Days rating (5 of 5)
Marc's TV Picks
Saturday
Hopkins vs Calzaghe, 9 p.m. HBO — Hopkins is one of the greatest fighters of the last 50 years. I fully expect him to give an exhibition of great technical fighting. He may be old, but the man still scares the living crap out of me.

Days rating (4 of 5)
Sunday
Pirates at Cubs, 1:20 p.m. WGN — The Cubbies managed a sweep of the Pirates last time. Nothing compares to lounging around the house on a Sunday watching the Cubs dominate Pittsburgh. Follow this up with a nice long nap, and my weekend seems like Heaven.

Days rating (5 of 5)
Sam's TV Picks
Saturday
Countdown to Hopkins-Calzaghe 7 p.m. HBO — Have to give Marc props for jumping on this one. I thought I was the boxing buff around here? Anyway, this is the best fight of the year and let's hope B-Hop can fight age one more time and ride off with his career's greatest victory. It's free. Watch this. You won't be disappointed.

Days rating (5 of 5)
Sunday
Kansas City at Oakland, 3 p.m. FSN — Watch as Zack Greinke continues to realize his unreal potential (0.75 ERA through three starts) against the A's. It'll be a nice reunion with Mike and Enell out West. Maybe after the game, Dave D. and Joey can hit the town with the ex-Royals. Would be a great party if Mike puts his religious beliefs on hold.

Days rating (4 of 5)
Brett's TV Picks
Saturday
Kansas City at Oakland, FSN Kansas City — Brian Bannister looks to go 4-0 when the Royals take on the Oakland A's. Bannister should get some pub on Baseball Tonight if he has another dominating performance.

Days rating (4 of 5)
Sunday
Major League II, TBS — Not a bad sequel to one of the best sports movies of all time. You know it's a good movie when a catcher, who can make a laser throw to second base, can't make a throw back to the pitcher.

Days rating (3 of 5)
2008 Memphis Tigers
You had the national championship won. All you had to do was make one free throw in the closing moments of the title game. John Calipari said arrogantly that his team makes free throws when they have to. Well, they did not and now Kansas has the national championship trophy. Thanks to the Tigers, I have to look at KU fans, both die-hard and instant, for the next year as they brag about a championship they say was earned. It was rather one team's inability to make free throws.

3. Tyus Edney
Before there was Aaron (expletive) Boone, there was Tyus Edney. Edney is the UCLA guard that stunned Missouri in the second round of the 1995 NCAA Tournament. Edney's running lay-up at the buzzer sent the Tigers packing. UCLA would eventually win the national championship, which makes it even more pain-slaking.

4. Barry Bonds
This guy has ruined the game of baseball. This guy joined his way to the all-time home run record. In all of the brush-fires MLB has put out in the war on performance-enhancing drugs, Selig missed out putting this clown away.

5. Texas A&M
The drunk trio of myself, Sam and Jeff Robinson decided to put a little money on Texas A&M against Kansas. It didn't start out well with the Jayhawks grabbing a 19-0 lead. Then, the Aggies displayed some life, cutting the deficit to 19-11 in the fourth quarter. With little time remaining, Texas A&M marched into KU territory, and sent a ball may toward the end zone. It missed the mark, just like all of our gambling endeavors.

SPORTS STAFF TOP 5 HIT LIST

* We at the Northwest Missourian do not condone extreme violence. If, however, it were legal, these men should watch out.

Scott's Picks
1. Gary Anderson
Life was great. But then Gary Anderson entered my life. The relationship started out great. He hit all 35 regular-season FGs. Then came that fateful day, Jan. 17, 1999. My beloved Vikes were on the brink of the Super Bowl, up 27-20 with 2:07 left. Anderson lined up for a chip shot from 38 yards away, and missed it. Let's just say no 13-year-old should ever have to deal with that agony, and I can thank Anderson for a troubled childhood.

2. Curtis Shaw, Frank Ileson, Lonnie Dixon
These human beings got Iowa State a chance at a NCAA national title in 2000, when they completed the worst home screw job March Madness has ever seen. In the Elite Eight, these men combined to give Michigan State a win, propelling them to a title. Without that help, Larry Eustachy doesn't get paid. I guess his pay raise allows him to party with people who can afford better beer than Natural Light.

3. Bret Culbertson
The Cyclones faced the hapless Missouri Tigers to gain entry into the Big 12 Championship game in '94. It was my birthday and I had tickets to the Championship game, including a press pass. But then Culbertson marched out for a 24-yard FG to win the game. With a kick marked in the middle of the field, Culbertson shanked it, ending the Clones' championship bid and the life of my cell phone after it ran into my wall.

4. Jarvis Williams
Another ISU heartbreaker. Hampton's Williams torched the Clones. I'll never forget his face, since it played every year for the tourney.

5. Texas A&M
The drunk trio of myself, Sam and Jeff Robinson decided to put a little money on Texas A&M against Kansas. It didn't start out well with the Jayhawks grabbing a 19-0 lead. Then, the Aggies displayed some life, cutting the deficit to 19-11 in the fourth quarter. With little time remaining, Texas A&M marched into KU territory, and sent a ball may toward the end zone. It missed the mark, just like all of our gambling endeavors.

Brett's Picks
1. Carl Peterson
Carl Peterson is the one of the longest-tenured General Manager's in the NFL, and what has he done? Not a whole lot. Peterson has been the GM since 1989 and the Chiefs have won one playoff game since 1993. Whenever he leaves, he will be known as a GM that never got his team to the promise land. Instead, his focus was more towards revenue. He will also be known as a GM that continually failed in the NFL draft.

2. 2008 Memphis Tigers
You had the national championship won. All you had to do was make one free throw in the closing moments of the title game. John Calipari said arrogantly that his team makes free throws when they have to. Well, they did not and now Kansas has the national championship trophy. Thanks to the Tigers, I have to look at KU fans, both die-hard and instant, for the next year as they brag about a championship they say was earned. It was rather one team's inability to make free throws.

3. Tyus Edney
Before there was Aaron (expletive) Boone, there was Tyus Edney. Edney is the UCLA guard that stunned Missouri in the second round of the 1995 NCAA Tournament. Edney's running lay-up at the buzzer sent the Tigers packing. UCLA would eventually win the national championship, which makes it even more pain-slaking.

4. Barry Bonds
This guy has ruined the game of baseball. This guy joined his way to the all-time home run record. In all of the brush-fires MLB has put out in the war on performance-enhancing drugs, Selig missed out putting this clown away.

5. David Chapp
Chapp. Chapp. Chapp. This owner is finally starting to increase the team payroll but this team has been consistently bad under his regime. Because of his unwillingness to pay emerging superstars, we've lost Carlos Beltran, Johnny Damon and Jermaine Dye — all players that have tasted some piece of postseason glory with other teams.

Sam's Picks
1. Mark Brunell
If you ever meet this man, ask him where a large portion of my childhood is. He and his Jaguars ruined an entire year of my life in 1997 when they nailed 2-7, won nine straight games and topped the best Broncos team (to that date) in Denver. He picked the absolute worst occasion to play out of his mind. I have no idea how John Elway came back from this, but I'm glad he did because one year of devastation wouldn't compare to 11 had they not won the next two Super Bowls. I still get angry because this man cheated us out of a 3-peat, as we had the best team in '96.

2. Eddie Kennison
For those who don't know, Kennison was a member of a forgettable 2001 Bronco team. But midway through the year, he went to Mike Shanahan and said he was retiring. He stayed "retired" for 10 days and then signed with the Chiefs. Wow, did I hate this man. But this did create my favorite regular-season game when fast Eddie ran his mouth about the then-11-1 Chiefs only to get destroyed by Jake and CJ 45-17.

3. Larry Cory (Broncos D-Coordinator)
This is the man that created what the Broncos are now. In 2005, we were losing the AFC title game and favored to win the Super Bowl, only when Cory decided to abandon the blitz and have both of his corners play 10 yards off the ball for an entire game. Big Ben dominated and they won the Super Bowl, instead of Mike, Al, Tatum and the boys. No one remembers this team though.

4. 2007 Orange Bowl Executives
When they got to choose KU over MU after the Tigers had beaten them and were ranked higher in the BCS, it sent Missouri to the Cotton Bowl and ended my relationship with college football.

5. David Glass (Royals' Owner)
If this tycoon hadn't pocketed the luxury tax money, we wouldn't have had to trade Beltran, Damon or Dye. We could've kept at least one instead of watching all of them enjoy their primes elsewhere. The man owns Wald-Mart and was too cheap to even make offers to these guys.

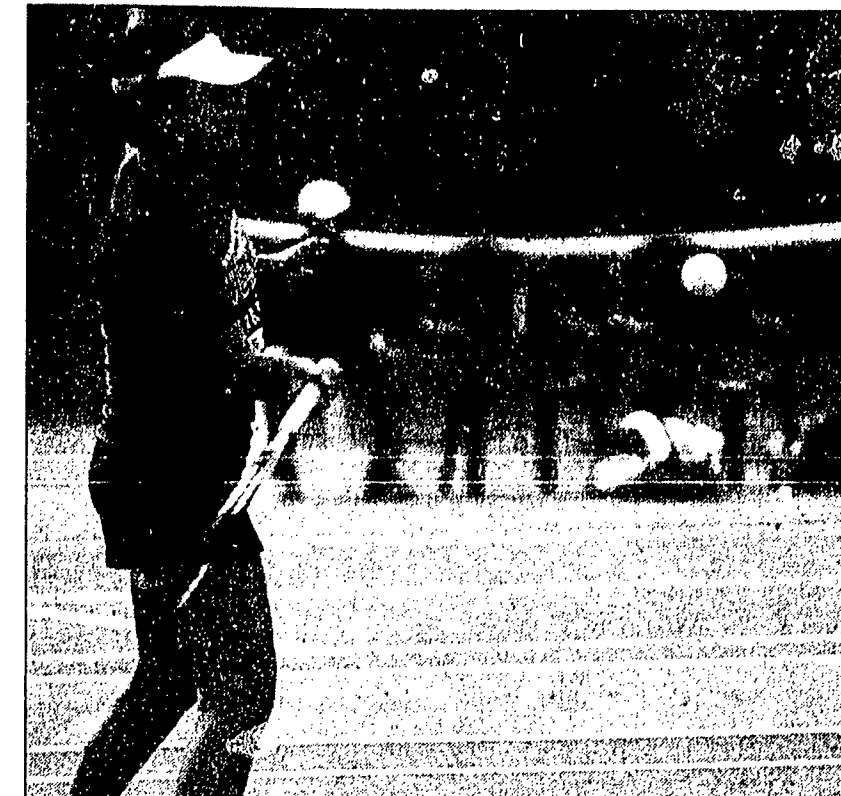
Marc's Picks
1. Alex Gonzalez
People blame the Cubs' 2003 playoff meltdown on Steve Bartman, but Bartman didn't lead all shortstops in fielding percentage, and then both the most routine groundball in history. That distinction belongs to Alex Gonzalez. Gonzalez, Bartman's biggest fan, ruined my life when he fumbled a ball right to him and extended the game. The Marlins went on to win game six and then the rest. I hate you Alex Gonzalez, and someday, I'll fill fight you in the seventh circle of Hell.

2. Vince Young
Everybody loves Vince Young. All he can really do is throw games away with every crippling and inevitable interceptions. If people didn't love him so much, I wouldn't hate him so much. But they do, so I do. I'll admit in college he was a great quarterback for a year — so was Eric Crouch. But in the pros, his inability to read defenses makes him a bust wrapped in a glossy marketing campaign. It didn't work with the ex-Royals. Would be a great party if Mike puts his religious beliefs on hold.

3. 1995 Missouri Tigers basketball
I really only hate the guys on the floor with 4.3 seconds to go. The guys who couldn't stop Tyus Edney. It's called defense fellas. I know Norm taught you.

4. Ryan Sims
Ryan Sims is the poster boy for working hard for the best sports movies of all time. You know it's a good movie when a catcher, who can make a laser throw to second base, can't make a throw back to the pitcher.

5. Ricky Clemens
A prima donna without the talent. But he did get Quin Snyder fired, so he did his part in a way. Clemens, at times, contributed by chucking up 2s. If you shoot enough, eventually, they go in. But his contributions off the court made Missouri's basketball program what it is today — terrible.



NORTHWEST TENNIS PLAYER Veronica Castilla returns a volley back to a University of Nebraska-Omaha tennis player Wednesday. Results were not available as of press time.

NW TENNIS

Teams down nationally ranked foes

By Brian Bosiljovac
Missourian reporter

The men's and women's tennis teams can enter the postseason fairly confident. Both teams are coming off impressive wins against a strong Washburn team. The lehabubs were ranked No. 24 nationally while the Lady Blues were ranked No. 29.

The Bearcat men are currently ranked No. 26 and hold a record of 16-3, 2-1. The win against Washburn puts the 'Cats in a tie with Southwest Baptist for first place in the MIAA with one conference match remaining for both teams.

Coach Mark Rosewell credited sophomore Felipe Gennari for helping to lead the 'Cats past Washburn.

Gennari battled back to beat Drew Hanson of Washburn in No. 4 singles and with the help of his partner Vigit Subgal, brought in the 'Cats' lone doubles victory.

"I think I have been playing good lately because I really love to play the game," Gennari

said. "I am always playing and practice any chance I get. With us only having one game last week, it gave me a lot of time to practice."

The women's team is currently ranked No. 31 nationally and have a record of 16-3, while remaining unbeaten in conference play.

They had to face the Mavericks without their star senior, Kristina Vucenov. Vucenov is out indefinitely due to tendonitis in her shoulder. She received a cortisone shot on Tuesday and will be taking it day by day for the rest of the season.

Vucenov is 25-3 overall in No. 1 singles play, while her and her partner Veronica Castilla are 17-4 in No. 2 doubles. She is just three wins shy of setting the Northwest record for single-season victories, which is currently at 27 by Yasmine Osborn.

With Vucenov being questionable, Rosewell will depend on other players to step up and perform such as junior Jordan Lipira, who Rosewell said has been playing well as of late.

"I think I can beat anybody. I just need to take it one point at a time," Lipira said. "When

I just stay in the point, I get a chance to hit more balls and wear down my opponent. Instead of going for the win all the time, I let them make the mistake."

Both the men and the women have their eyes set on nationals. Last years were cut short of that dream last year by losing in the Sweet 16 of the Regional Tournament.

"It is really important for us to win the conference tournament," Gennari said. "Right now, we are the one-seed, and I think if we can win, that we would have a great shot at getting to nationals."

Lipira feels her team needs to stay healthy in order to make their run at nationals.

"We have beat a lot of teams that we didn't think we would," Lipira said. "Also, there have been games we expected to be close but weren't, and that gives us the confidence we need."

Results of Wednesday's meet with the University of Nebraska-Omaha were not available as of press time.

The 'Cats return to action Friday, here, against St. Cloud (Minn.).

SWEEP: Swygert stifles offensive run production

Continued from B1

"The pitchers are keeping us in the game," Anderson said. "They're making pitches to get outs, but it's discouraging for them because we're not making plays behind them."

After a three-hit performance in game one, the 'Cats connected with two consecutive hits to open game two. Erin Leslie led off the first inning with an infield single, followed by Casey Carper's single up the middle.

Northwest didn't register another hit during the inning, but Leslie scored the day's first run on a wild pitch.

"We did exactly what we needed to do," Anderson said. "Our one and two got on base, but we couldn't get anything else going. I told them to hit it to the green (the fence), and it would force them to make a hard throw. But we just couldn't get it done."

A five-run second inning propelled Washburn to a game one shutout victory. Jessie Batres knocked a three-run homer over the left field fence, while Tish Williams added a two-run home run.

"We're just beating ourselves right

now," Carper said. "We're laying back. Mentally we know we have to get it done, but we just can't get it done."

Kelly Swygert silenced Northwest's offense, striking out nine batters and allowing three earned runs during 14 innings. Swygert allowed 16 hits, with eight of those coming from Carper and Leslie.

Carper went 5-for-7, while Leslie totaled three hits and two runs. Kristen Hessel recorded two RBIs.

"We've had some big games, and we're just beating ourselves," Anderson said. "We want to hit so bad, but we're fighting within ourselves. There's just not that spark."

This game marked only the second time Northwest played at home since March 20. Northwest also squared off against Fort Hays State Monday, where they lost game one 4-2, before salvaging the split, 5-2.

Northwest dropped to 22-17 overall and 5-7 in the MIAA. The 'Cats return to action at 3 p.m., Friday, at Southwest Baptist, before squaring off against Missouri Southern at noon, Saturday, at Joplin.



NORTHWEST FIRST BASEMAN Janelle Krohn digs a ball forcing out a Washburn runner during Tuesday's doubleheader. Washburn defeated Northwest in both games.

ERA: Gadbois breaks 31-year 200-meter mark

Continued from B1

At the conference meet, Stiens' 15:46 was second to Guess' record time of 15:20 in the 100-meter hurdles, but she won the 300-meter race in 46:43. At the district championships the following week, Stiens beat her mentor for the first time (15:34) and set the 300-meter record by running 45:94.

Two weeks later, Stiens was the lone 'found in an individual event in the state meet and she did not disappoint. Stiens blew away her previous best in the 300s, running a 44:92 to finish fourth and topped that by breaking Guess' record in the 100s, running 15:14 and finishing third.

When her whirlwind of a season ended, Stiens couldn't help but be a bit taken aback at a one-of-a-kind rookie year.

"It was really surprising," Stiens said. "I didn't really expect to be that great because I just started hurdling. It was a once-in-a-lifetime thing (getting to state), but I always want to go for the gold though. I really wanted to win."

Stiens' disappointment even after

medaling in her first state meet is something that shocked Hageman, but revealed the fiery competitor he's proud to coach.

"She was upset that she took third and fourth. She thought she would do a bit better than that," he said. "Of course, as a coach, you're ecstatic because it was her best time of the year. But to see a girl come off the track and be a little upset about it and to come out here and work hard to make sure that doesn't happen again, that's pretty impressive."

In the third meet this season, Stiens and Gadbois set the bar even higher, as each now has only their own records to shoot for.

Gadbois re-broke her own 100-meter record at the Warrior Relays in Kearney, Tuesday night, blazing to a half-second victory in 12:45.

Hours later, Gadbois brought down a record that had been on the board since "Happy Days" was on the air. Despite facing a stiff challenge from teammate Sam McGuiness, Gadbois broke the 31-year-old 200-meter dash record in running a 26:17.

Stiens' race may have been more challenging. The sophomore again broke her own record with a 14:94, but did it by racing against herself, as the closest competitor failed to break 17 seconds.

Gadbois and Stiens' times place them among the state's elite and as favorites to make the finals in Jefferson City come May, but Zweifel is not as certain. The senior has been relegated to the training room after straining her hamstring three weeks ago and is wondering if her opportunity passed her by.

But her final goal is to recover in time to possibly join her younger teammates in representing her school at state.

"I'd really like to get back to the status I was at last year. I really miss jumping for the team and scoring points," Zweifel said. "It would mean the world to me, but right now, I'm kind of lacking hope because of my injury. But it would mean the world to be able to go there with my teammates and be able to jump against the best people in the state."

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THANK YOU!

I would like to thank everyone at NWMSU for the many wonderful years I have spent here. From my days as a college student, to teaching physical education at Horace Mann, thru cashing at Campus Dining, I have truly enjoyed every minute spent with my Northwest family and all of their kids. It was such a joy for me to see everyone on Friday, April 11 at my retirement/birthday reception. I appreciate all of the hard work and planning that my ARAMARK Family put into it. I would like to especially thank President Hubbard, Senator Brad Lager, the Missouri Senate, the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Bobby Bearcat, the NWMSU Faculty/Staff and Students for making my reception so special. I look forward to seeing everyone around Campus and Maryville as I enjoy my retirement!!!

SINCERELY, IRMA MERRICK

MOVIE REVIEW

'21' proves to be a good bet

By Sydney Moore
Entertainment Reporter

For me, there are few things better than Jim Sturgess in Hollywood. When I found out that the mega-hottie from "Across the Universe" was starring in the film "21," I knew that I would have to see it as soon as it hit theaters and I made a point to get there as soon as I could.

Alongside Sturgess in this box-office hit are several well-known names, such as Kevin Spacey, ("Pay It Forward") Kate Bosworth ("Win a Date With Tad Hamilton!") and Laurence Fishburne of "The Matrix."

The movie was inspired by the true story of Jeff Ma and his MIT blackjack team from the mid 1990s. Their story was also the inspiration for the New York Times best seller "Bringing Down the House," by Ben Mezrich.

In the film, Sturgess plays Ben Campbell, a very intelligent senior at MIT who is trying to save money in order to attend Harvard Medical School. After realizing exactly how bright he is, Mickey Rosa, (Spacey) Campbell's professor recruits Campbell to join a card-counting team, which consists of four other students.

After his first couple of runs at the blackjack table, Campbell quickly impresses his teammates and coach. Soon, he has enough money for his Harvard tuition but has lost the most important things back home — his friends.

Campbell begins to lose concentration and his winning streak in Vegas slows down.

After one night of letting his team down, Rosa leaves the crew in Vegas,

causing them to find their own solution to their recent problems.

Personally, I loved the film. I thought the young, talented cast did a great job of portraying the MIT students. They played the masters of manipulation perfectly and used slyness to get their way in more ways than one.

Sturgess portrayed the shy, intelligent type very well, making Campbell an extremely believable character. The only upset I found in his character was the lack of his gorgeous English accent, but his stellar performance made up for it.

Spacey also gave a great performance as Rosa. He seemed to enjoy his role of the power-hungry professor. His quick wit and powerful actions reminded me of every difficult teacher I have ever encountered, which helped me relate to his character much better.

Although the card-counting scenes are very difficult to understand for those of us who are mathematically challenged, the thrill of winning makes it very intriguing. With every counting scene, I found myself trying to keep up with the numbers, lingo and fast-paced action, although I was sadly never successful.

I highly recommend this film to anyone who has the opportunity to see it and I'm sure they will be just as impressed as I was.

Sydney gives "21"
5 out of 5 popcorns



REVIEW

'The Ruins' provides a blood-filled good time

By Brian Johnson
Entertainment Reporter

I have a special place in my heart for snuff flicks, and "The Ruins" is the latest serving of the genre. Not exactly Oscar-winning stuff here, but it certainly provided an interesting evening filled with blood, hot girls, gore and death by plants. What else can you ask for?

Directed by newcomer Carter Smith, this horror film follows a group of teens in Mexico on vacation who decide to visit some old Mayan ruins that is off the regular map based on a suggestion from some other vacationers.

From there, it all goes downhill (or rather uphill) when they are attacked by some locals and forced up the Mayan ruins and they are trapped. The group is then thought to be safe, but soon they realize there is an evil lurking in the ruins far worse than the locals keeping them up there.

I'm going to have to pull a cheap joke here and say this will probably be an emo's favorite movie because of all the self-mutilation and blood. In my opinion, self-mutilation is just very hard to watch no matter what context it is in. However, I must applaud this movie because they got me to cringe, which is more than a lot of horror movies have done in the past.

There are obvious loop holes in the movie, like how the film makes it seem like the locals are just guarding one side of the ruins. If this was the case, then why didn't the tourists just go down the other side? Of

course, going into this movie, I half-expected some flaws with a new director and with the exception of Jena Malone, an inexperienced cast, I was able to get past this because of the entertaining special effects and the originality of the plot.

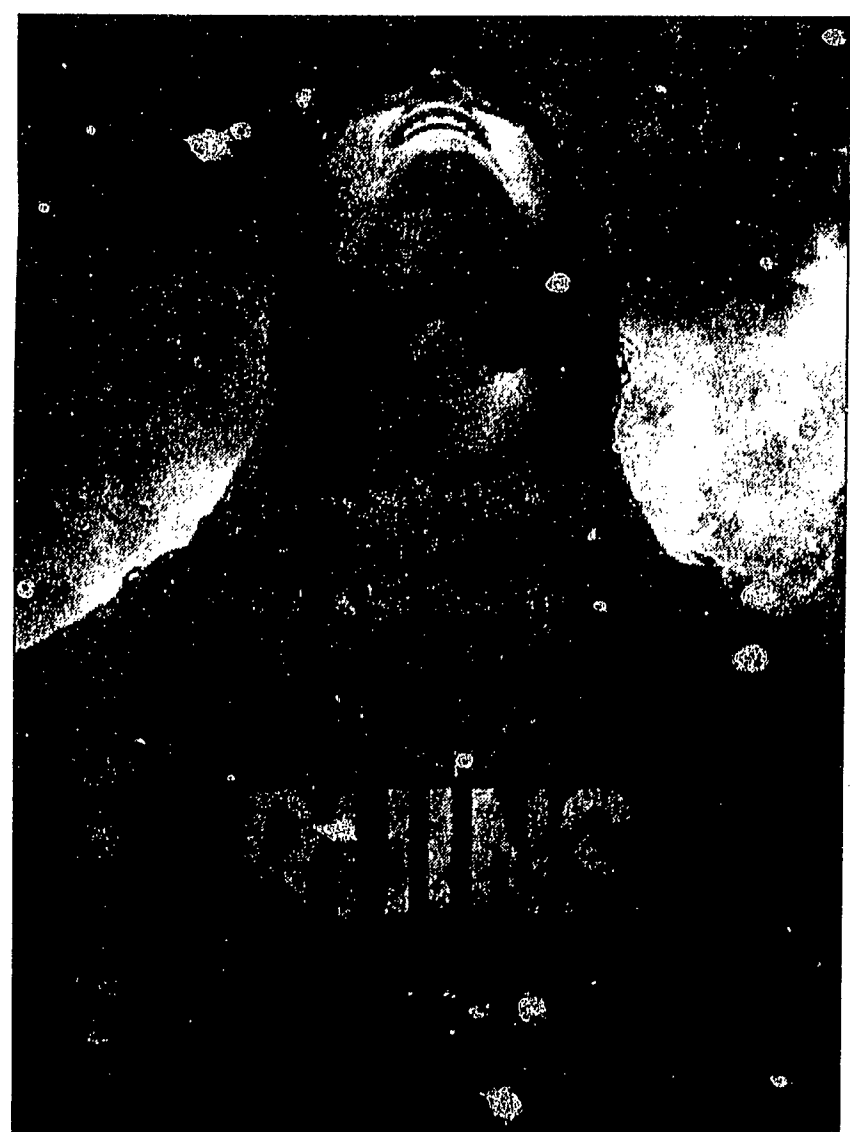
Malone single-handedly stole this movie, and she will be a major player in the future. She has already headlined some independent cult movies such as "Donnie Darko" and "Saved!" and she can only move up from here. She has the beauty, acting skills and certain awkwardness in her characters that really appeal to the audience.

The ending was pretty anti-climactic, it seems like they could've done what they did a lot earlier in the film pretty easily. Like I said, not very many awards are in line for this movie but it provides for an entertaining night if you are a classic horror movie fan.

"The Ruins" has all the classic elements of horror and the actions by the characters are not really anything new, but if you are a fan of classic horror, then it will definitely appeal to you. However, if you aren't very fond of these types of movies, then I wouldn't even give it a chance because it's really not for you. All horror movie fans can call this one their own and they can let all the others have crap like "Superhero Movie."

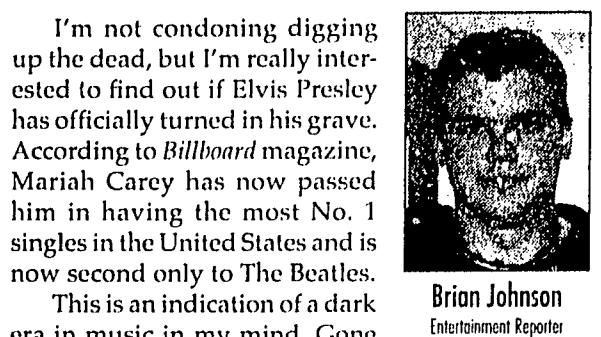


Brian gives
"The Ruins"
3 out of 5 popcorns



COLUMN

Columnist outraged at Mariah Carey's success



Brian Johnson
Entertainment Reporter

I'm not condoning digging up the dead, but I'm really interested to find out if Elvis Presley has officially turned in his grave. According to *Billboard* magazine, Mariah Carey has now passed him in having the most No. 1 singles in the United States and is now second only to The Beatles.

This is an indication of a dark era in music in my mind. Gone are the days of good music being acknowledged on the charts. These days you have mediocre singers with not a whole lot of passion making the grade. I'm sorry Carey, but just because you have a voice that can hit the "whistle register" doesn't make it good.

For years I have had a problem with Carey simply because I don't feel any emotion in her music. I think her fans have mistaken vocal ability with heart. I understand she has come a long way and she has had a considerable amount of drama in her life, but I have yet to see or hear any of that passion in her voice or her lyrics.

I also think that Carey has been writing the same song for almost 20 years. Every song is about a man breaking her heart or about how much she loves another man. Well, that's all well and good, but the two other best-selling artists Elvis Presley and The Beatles explored other themes besides just love and they were far more influential than Carey can ever hope to be.

Elvis single-handedly changed everything in music. He changed the way we looked at rock 'n' roll. He gave white kids an excuse to like something besides Mozart. He is the biggest icon in the history of rock 'n' roll, possibly in the history of all music. In 100 years when people are teaching music history classes, I'd like to think that Presley would be the center of most of the textbook. I pray that I won't be alive when Carey's name is on a final exam.

At this point, Carey is three singles away from tying The Beatles for No. 1 singles, and with the release of her new album, it is likely she will break that record fairly soon. This makes me sick to my stomach to think that the most successful act in music history might be a big-breasted, overly tanned diva whose voice could cause a natural disaster.

I challenge any of Carey's fans to listen to The Beatles' "Abbey Road" along with any of Carey's catalog and tell me her recordings are better. The Beatles had more depth, influence and artistry than anything Mariah Carey has ever done, and yes, that includes her cover of The Jackson 5's "I'll Be There."

In my mind, I don't even think that Carey should be considered one of the greatest singers of all time as a poll in *Blender* magazine in 2003 indicated. Voice range does not equal a great voice.

When I think of great voices, I think of voices with character even though they may not have the greatest range. I think of people like Aretha Franklin, Patsy Cline, Bob Dylan, John Lennon and Kurt Cobain. All of these people had magical voices as well as depth, which I fail to see either in Carey at all.

Well at least I can look toward the future at up and coming singers like Jessica Simpson and Christina Aguilera. God help us all.

"I challenge any of Carey's fans to listen to The Beatles' 'Abbey Road' along with any of Carey's catalog and tell me her recordings are better,"

Brian Johnson
entertainment reporter

AT YOUR LEISURE

TOP PICKS

Top 2 picks of the week

By Sydney Moore
Entertainment Reporter

■ **Out on DVD** — "Juno," a comedy starring Ellen Page ("Hard Candy") and Michael Cera ("Superbad") was released on Tuesday. The flick tells the story of Juno MacGuff (Page) and Paulie Bleeker, (Cera) two nerdy high school students. After the two have sex for the first time, Juno gets pregnant. Paulie leaves all decisions concerning the baby up to Juno, and after contemplating abortion, Juno decides to give the baby up for adoption. After searching the Pennysaver ad section for the perfect couple, Juno finds Mark and Vanessa Loring, a young, upper-class couple living in the suburbs.

After meeting with the couple for the first time, Juno decides that the Loring's are the perfect couple for her unborn child. After months of hanging around the Loring's, Juno and Mark become close friends and problems arise in the Loring's marriage. In the end, everyone ends up exactly where they should be — with the people they love.

■ **Artist worth checking out** — Keri Noble, a singer-songwriter from Detroit, is an artist with a very unique voice. She has a very soulful sound and her lyrics are very easy to relate to. My personal favorite is her song, "Let it Rain," which is about a relationship gone wrong. In the song, Noble sings about missing the warning signs that the relationship is headed south, which is something that most young adults can relate to. Noble's first album, "Fearless," was released in March 2004. Download her songs, "Let it Rain" and "Look at Me" to get a glimpse of what this great artist is all about.

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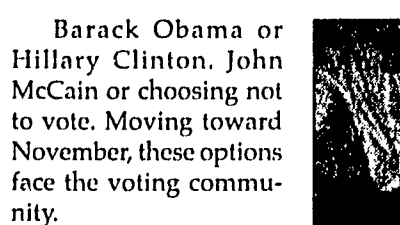
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STROLLER

Your Man analyzes candidates



The Stroller

Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton. John McCain or choosing not to vote. Moving toward November, these options face the voting community.

While CNN and MSNBC give continual analysis of each candidate, I'll take a different approach.

I don't know anything about their politics, and I don't care. Usually, I see voting as a choice between two people who don't accurately represent me in any way — except for Clinton and his chubby-chasing, pot-smoking platform.

I'm going to look at the candidates from the point of view of complete ignorance and superficial judgment.

■ **Barack Obama**
The candidate with the most soul, he's been in trouble lately for some comments he made about my people — bitter, white, gun-toting hayseeds. But I'm OK with that, because he's a straight shooter.

I like Obama because he

reminds me of this home-

less guy I met once who was just looking for \$5 to buy a bottle of booze. That, and a complete lack of experience in the realm of foreign policy, seem like good enough reasons to vote Obama in '08.

■ **Hillary Clinton**
Many people squawk about a woman running for president. To that I would ask, are you sure she's a woman? She dodges sniper fire, drinks tequila straight from the bottle and can belch the entire alphabet — I've seen it.

Assuming Clinton is a woman,

she's one tough old bird. Her presence reminds me of a young Tom Selleck.

■ **John McCain**
McCain makes the rest of this group look like Nancys. He tore through the jungles of Vietnam before Obama was even a dirty thought in his father's mind.

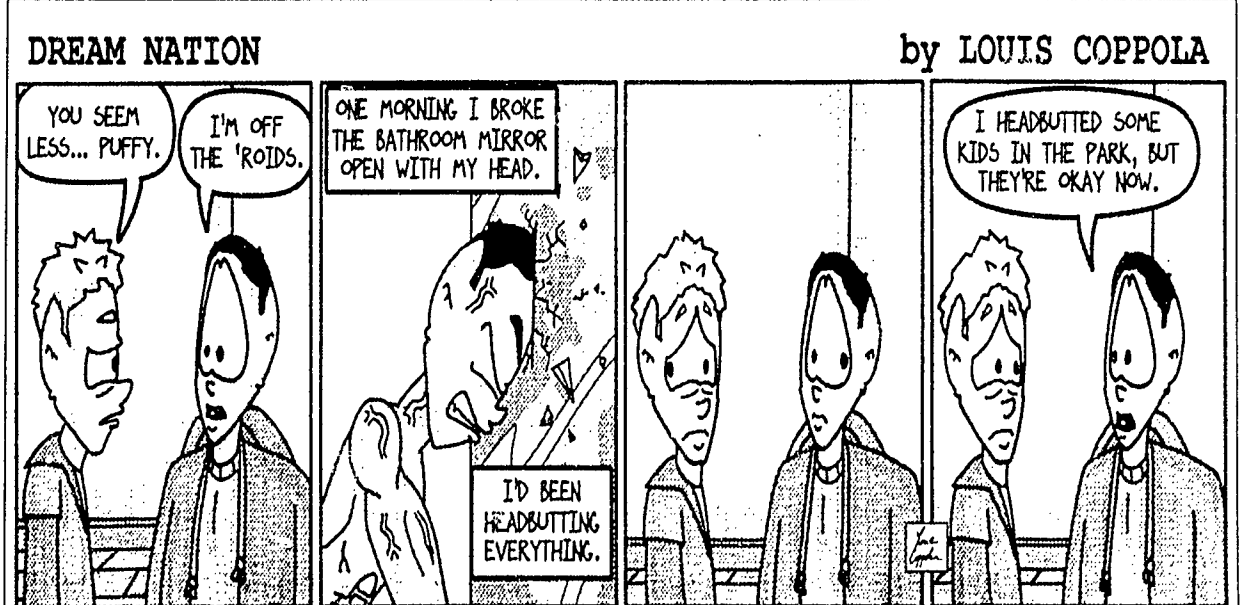
Flashbacks concern me though. How embarrassing would it be if McCain bitch slapped the Vietnamese ambassador and tried to escape from the U.S. Capitol building?

By my crazy, inexact and completely irrelevant analysis, every candidate seems worthy. Maybe instead of electing them, we've seen how that can go wrong, we should throw them in a pit and whoever makes it out alive is president.

Somebody give Michael Vick a call; he has experience in this field.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

CARTOON



NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY We provide the laptop

New laptop computer program for fall 2008

Every full-time undergraduate student, living on-campus or off-campus taking 12 hrs or more, will be provided a new HP, 2 GHz, 2GB RAM, 4 USB ports, CDRW/DVD player laptop computer.

Every full-time graduate student, living on-campus or off-campus taking 9 hrs or more, will be provided a new HP, 2 GHz, 2GB RAM, 4 USB ports, CDRW/DVD player laptop computer.

The laptop computers will be under an HP warranty for defects and will be covered for accidental damage with a \$50 deductible charge for major damages.

All laptop computer check-outs, check-ins and repairs must be completed at the Electronic Campus Support Center on the Northwest campus.

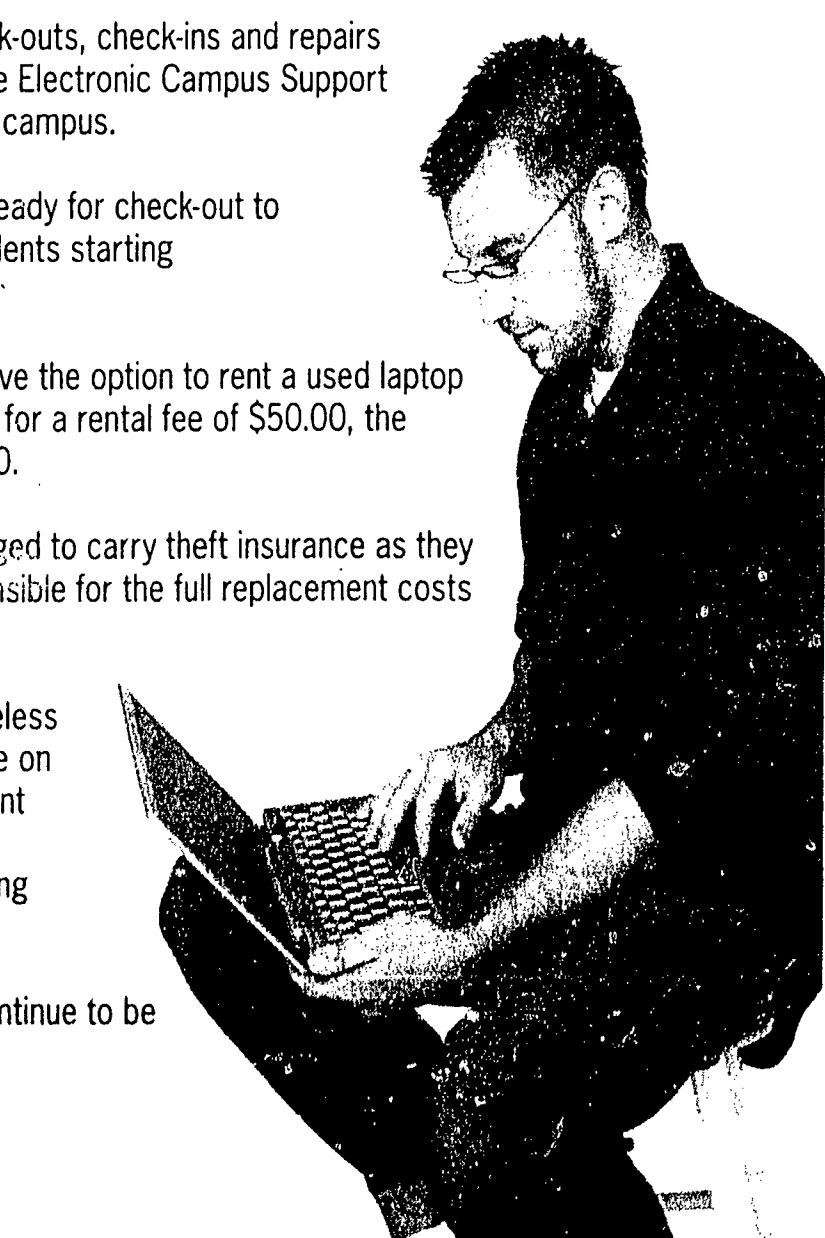
The new laptops will be ready for check-out to pre-enrolled full-time students starting August 11, 2008.

Part-time students will have the option to rent a used laptop computer each trimester for a rental fee of \$50.00, the current charge is \$150.00.

Students will be encouraged to carry theft insurance as they will continue to be responsible for the full replacement costs of stolen or lost laptops.

The expansion of the wireless data network will continue on campus as soon as current vendors can supply the newest 802.11n networking equipment.

Laptop computers will continue to be replaced every 3 years.



Student Employment Week

In observation of National Student Employment Week, the Department of Student Publications recognizes the following students for the contributions they have made to the Northwest Missourian, Tower Yearbook, and Heartland View.

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The long road home

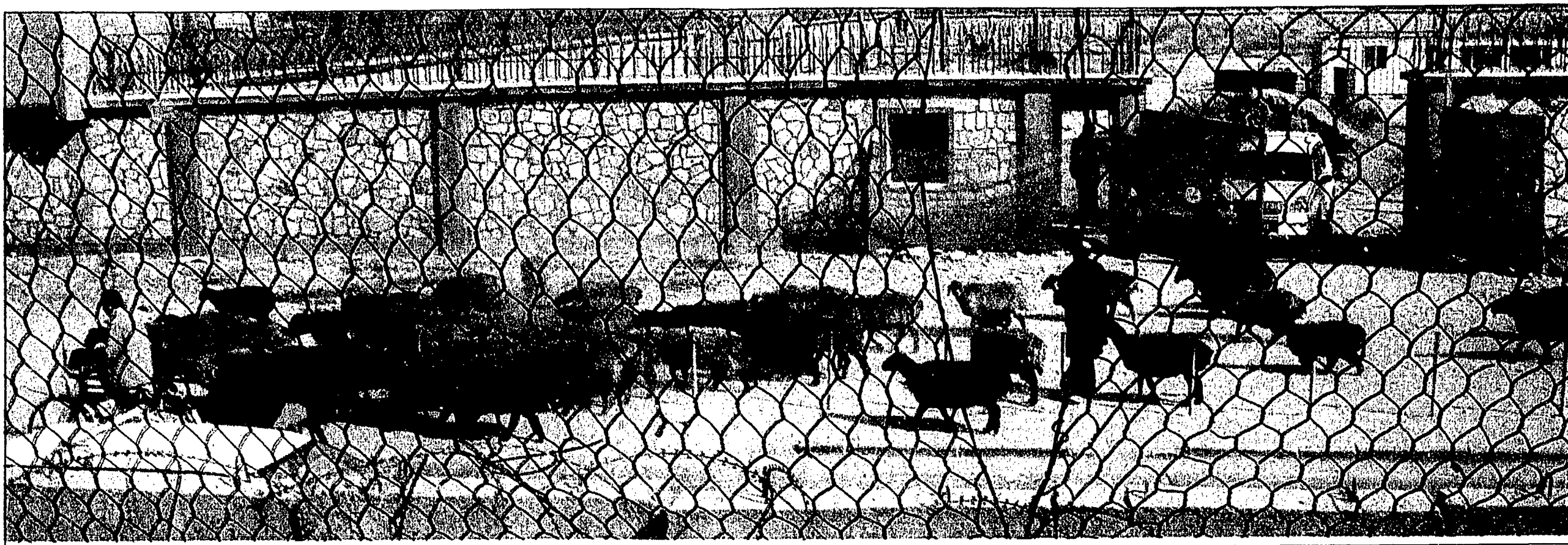


photo submitted by paul thompson

EVEN IN THE impoverished capital city of Afghanistan, sheep are still an odd site among the cars and people on city streets. Area soldiers were recently deployed to Camp Eggers in Kabul.

Soldiers return home from Iraq to loving families

By Kenny Larabee
Chief Reporter

Halfway across the globe, amid the mountains and dry plains, in the poverty-stricken country of Afghanistan, the front lines of the war on terror are fought. But in this day and age, the war on terror affects more than just the countries of the Middle East and Islamic nations. It influences every street corner and door step in America.

Maryville is no different. Members of the 1st of 129th Artillery of the Missouri National Guard recently returned from a year-plus deployment in at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan.

While overseas, the soldiers fought terrorism, while simultaneously rebuilding a ravaged land. They also found strength from their fellow soldiers and the brotherhood that was established through the trials of war.

Three of those soldiers talked about the plight of desperate Afghans, the dangers of being deployed and the lessons they learned about themselves.

Jon Hanna

For many soldiers, joining the Guard entails sacrifices. Leaving behind family and friends when duty calls and giving up the freedoms of everyday life are part of the job.

Sgt. Jon Hanna spent many days last year alone atop a tower at Camp Eggers, watching for anything suspicious; people taking pictures of the camp or potential suicide bombers. Some days he would do foot patrols or search vehicles entering the compound.

The days were long. Twelve hours long. Outside of work, there wasn't much to do and nowhere to go, Hanna said.

"You're sitting in a camp, there's constant wire or razor wire all the way around the top of your camp," Hanna said. "The only time you leave is when you're going to do a foot patrol or when you're in a Humvee going out and doing a patrol or driving somewhere. So it's kind of like you're living in a prison."

The Maryville native moved to Lenox, Iowa during his sophomore year in high school. After finishing high school, Hanna, now 22, moved back home and shortly thereafter joined the Guard. The sacrifices that he had to make while overseas were just part of the job, Hanna said.

No one forced him to join; no one forced any of them.

Nevertheless, it was hard not to find some things to miss.

"I really missed my family, my friends and just being able to do whatever I want. If I feel like going out and getting something to eat, just hop in a vehicle and drive out and get something to eat. Or if you feel like going bowling with your friends or your family," Hanna said. "It's pretty much freedom is what you miss. What I missed the most. Freedom and my friends and family."

However, the soldiers were so busy they didn't even think about the sacrifices they were making, Hanna said. He was busy while training at Fort Dix, N.J. So busy in fact, that he forgot the significance of one particular day.

"We were at a 9mm pistol class and we had to write the date down on something and I leaned over to Staff Sgt. (Josh) Wilmes," Hanna said. "I asked him what the date was and he said, 'It's Wednesday,' and I said, 'No, what's the date?' and he said '29 November.'"

That's when he realized.

"It's my birthday. I'm 21."

Despite the sacrifices, Hanna said he feels like he accomplished something. People come up to him and shake his hand and thank him in airports.

In regards to the negativity toward the war on terror, Hanna said what people see in the media and what the reality is doesn't always coincide.

"They never show all the people that are so thankful that we're over there. Even when we're over there, there's all kinds of local-nationals that will come up to us and thank us for what we've done for them. So yeah, I rest easy every night knowing that I did do something great because I saw a lot of bad things over there. I saw a lot of good things that we've done for people."

The soldiers may be fighting the war on terror, but they're also just doing their jobs, Hanna said.

"Everybody has their own views," Hanna said. "You don't have to support the war, do what you want, but you always have to support your soldiers."



POSING IN FRONT of a Humvee is Sgt. Paul Thompson, or "P.T." as his friends call him. As owner of The Palms in Maryville, Thompson had to delegate responsibilities while away in Afghanistan.

Paul Thompson

Soldiers of the National Guard often lead dual lives. They have a responsibility to their country, serving in the Armed Forces to protect the freedom of their countrymen. And then they have their civilian lives, construction workers, accountants, educators and such.

Some even own their own businesses. Sgt. Paul Thompson, or "P.T." is one such soldier. Thompson owns The Palms, a Maryville bar and grill. But when it came time to fulfill his obligation, he had to leave his business behind. In doing so, his duty and his sacrifice changed him in a way that allowed him to not only fulfill his commitment, but allow his business to succeed.

A Northwest graduate, Thompson delegated the responsibilities of running his business to two employees and his wife, Melissa. In Afghanistan, he oversaw other soldiers. The experiences helped strengthen a leadership characteristic for Paul.

"I was a truck commander there, I had people below me that I had to trust with certain jobs to get done," Paul said. "Back over here, I had to give up control of running my business from day to day, doing everything by myself and trust other people to do the job for me and that they would do the right thing. It's made me have to trust people more and rely on them to get things done."

Melissa kept busy with more than just the Palms while Paul was away. Already possessing a degree from Northwest, she will complete a nursing degree next month.

"She's done a good job of budgeting her time, getting her grades and then also keeping these guys in line and make sure things are going in the right direction," Paul said.

While things were being minded in the States, the nearly 14-year Guardsman had plenty to manage in Afghanistan.

"We're over there, where you never know what's going to happen, ever. You're wearing body armor, you're carrying around a loaded weapon at all times and then not being around your friends and family ... you've got to keep your guard up," Paul said. "Even on our compound, you still had to because the local-nationals worked there. You've got to be aware of your environment at all times. So it was very stressful that way."

To add to that stress, soldiers had days off, but were on call 24-7.

"If the alarms go off, you've got to react, whether you're kicked back that day watching television or writing letters or reading a book," Paul said. "You had to get up and muster up, and get to where you were going right away."

Being in the impoverished country showed the soldiers a different culture. Hurt, pain, and suffering could be seen in the natives' eyes, Paul said. But he also said there were a lot of good people in Afghanistan. He also witnessed one strange sight from the capital city of Kabul.

"Hook out one day and all you can see is cars driving by all day long, and you're watching people walk by and you see bicycles, and you'll see some mule carts," Paul said. "All of a sudden I look up and there's a whole herd of sheep and goats, right down through all the traffic, right through the center of Kabul. I'm like 'Are you kidding me? Why are all these sheep in the middle of Kabul?' That was pretty odd."

In addition to gaining trust, Paul also gained a sense of pride in helping the people of Afghanistan, people who can't even walk down the street without fear, Paul said.

"To at least know that I've taken part and tried to do a little something to help the people in Afghanistan's lives a little bit," Paul said. "I've done my part to stick up for people here in the United States."

Stuart Kemper

For many soldiers, the commitment to the National Guard can get in the way of life. When his country called him, Sgt. Stuart Kemper had to put his schooling at Northwest on hold.

The 22-year-old freshman plans on returning to school in the fall, but for now, he's enjoying the freedoms of being a U.S. citizen, freedoms he helped defend in Afghanistan.

"I like the freedom of not having anybody tell me what I have to do every day, just kind of like, wake up and whatever I feel like doing today I won't do," Kemper said with a laugh.

Those freedoms have a new appreciation. Kemper spent most of 2007 in Afghanistan, fighting to defend America's freedoms while simultaneously helping out the citizens of the country.

"We had a few different jobs that we did, I mainly worked in towers: guard towers and entry control points, basically working a gate. Checking foot traffic and vehicles coming in and out of the camp. And I did a few mobile patrols and some foot patrols there around our compound. But a normal day was 12 hours in a tower or working at a gate," Kemper said. "It gets pretty long. It gets kind of old after a while."

The trip to Afghanistan was, like many soldiers', Kemper's first deployment overseas. Being in the middle of the war on terror, Kemper wasn't sure what he'd encounter.

"It was a lot worse when we first got there, we didn't really know what to expect, but after we had been doing it for a while you kind of settle in and you know what to look for, kind of understand what's normal and what's not."

Despite the hardships he witnessed and faced, Kemper learned from the experience.

"I feel glad for going over there and doing it because I wasn't really all that sure before, but just kind of seeing how most of the people that we were working with were glad we were there doing what we were doing and trying to give them some of the freedoms that we have," Kemper said. "It makes me appreciate what we have a lot more."

Kemper left behind friends and family: his parents live just outside Maryville, his brother still attends Maryville High School, while his sister is enrolled at the University of Missouri. It's part of a list of sacrifices that helped change Kemper.

"Little complaints that I used to have before I think I've gotten rid of," Kemper said. "Just complaining about little stupid stuff, it's like, 'it could be a lot worse.'"

Kemper turned 21 while home on leave, right after a large ice storm ravaged the Midwest. Gray skies and icy roads wasn't what Kemper missed while overseas.

"It might sound weird, but I really missed grass and everything green because where we were at there wasn't a whole lot of that," Kemper said. "It was a little different landscape."

Throughout the war on terror, Kemper said he was glad for the support of his fellow Americans, and for their viewpoints on modern day war.

"We had all kinds of support. We were getting care packages from all kinds of people, whenever we got home the community were there greeting us back. I think a lot of people were very supportive of us and had all kinds of people coming up and telling us thanks," Kemper said. "They might not support what they think the government is doing there, I'm glad that they are still supportive of the troops."



photo submitted by jon hanna

CARRIED IN A RUCK sack by Spec. Ricky Harden, Sgt. Jon Hanna brings a lighthearted moment to the camp. Hanna said he was lucky to be deployed with a group of guys who were like a family.



photo by sgt. cecil i. and photography

DURING HIS TIME in Afghanistan, Sgt. Stuart Kemper worked on patrols and tower duty. Kemper was among us soldiers who returned early last month.